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GOAL!
WEEKLY

Season 2: Issue 2
Monday 6 Feb 06: \$3

Supporting all colours and reporting in black and white.

VODAFONE CUP LATEST RESULTS

Royals 2 - 3 Eagles
Kingston 1 - 0 Georgies
Cavaliers 1 - 2 Cannons
Lions 1 - 3 Knights
Bergers 0 - 2 South
Pines 0 - 2 Zebras
Blues v Magic Playing Tonight



A-League
Final
Round
Pages 26-27

**From Heidelberg
to Hollywood**
Page 22



**VODAFONE
CUP GETS
OFF TO A FLYER**



**VICTORY ENDS LACK-
LUSTRE SEASON ON A
HIGH**
Page 26



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GOAL!

HOLLAND

Deutschland Bound!



Back Row: Ruud van Nistelrooy, Edwin van der Sar, Jan Kromkamp, Philip Cocu, Hedwiges Maduro en Barry Opdam.
Front Row: Arjen Robben, Dirk Kuijt, Khalid Boulahrouz, Tim de Cler en Denny Landzaat



Coach: Marco van Basten.

Key players: Ruud van Nistelrooy, Edwin van der Sar, Phillip Cocu.

World Cup record: Eighth appearance; runner-up (1974, 1978).

Last appearance: Semifinals 1998.

World Cup odds: 11-1.

How qualified: Won European Group 1.

Group C

Serbia and Montenegro v Holland: Leipzig, Sunday 11th June 2006 KO3pm

Holland v Czech Republic: Stuttgart, Friday 16th June 2006 KO6pm

Holland v Argentina: Frankfurt, Wednesday 21st June 2006 KO9pm

*KO in German Summer Time



GOAL! WEEKLY...SUPPORTING ALL COLOURS



Back Row: Stiven Mirkela (Altona Magic), Dean Anastasiadis (Sth Melbourne), Feargal O'Colmain (Richmond Eagles), Felix Rosman (Oakleigh Cannons), Billy Armour (Frankston Pines), Les Anastasiou (Preston Lions), Stellos Drakos (Bulleen Zebras),
Front Row: Eric Vasiliadis (Heidelberg United), Joe Spiteri (Kingston City), Dean Fak (Green Gully Cavaliers), Nick Schwal (Essendon Royals), Manny Muscat (Sunshine Georgies), Josip Kozic (Melbourne Knights), Steve Tilovski (Fawkner/Whittlesea).



Victory's Daniel Allsopp tries to hold off another Knights challenge.



Knights 'keeper Glen Moss at full stretch, attempting to protect his goal.



The players acknowledge the supporters.

THAT WAS THE SEASON THAT WAS..

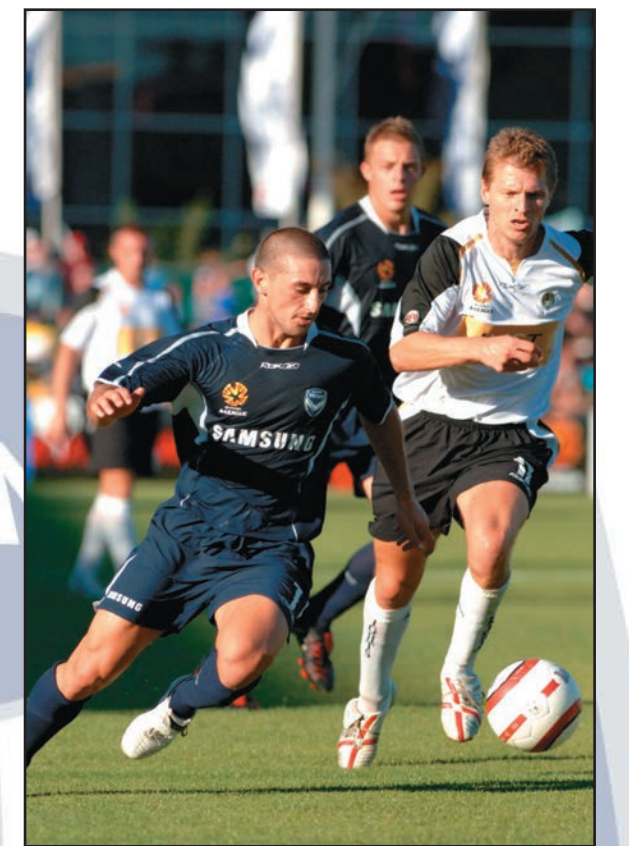
- v Sydney FC D 1-1
- v Perth Glory FC D 2-2
- v Adelaide United FC L 0-1
- v Queensland Roar FC D 1-1
- v Newcastle Jets FC W 1-0
- v Central Coast Mariners FC W 2-1
- v New Zealand Knights FC W 3-0
- v Sydney FC W 5-0
- v Perth Glory FC L 1-2
- v Adelaide United FC L 0-1
- v Queensland Roar FC L 0-1
- v Newcastle Jets FC D 0-0
- v Central Coast Mariners FC L 0-2
- v New Zealand Knights FC W 3-2
- v Sydney FC L 1-2
- v Perth Glory FC D 2-2
- v Adelaide United FC L 0-1
- v Queensland Roar FC W 1-0
- v Newcastle Jets FC L 0-1
- v Central Coast Mariners FC L 1-3
- v New Zealand Knights FC W 2-1

Final Position: Seventh

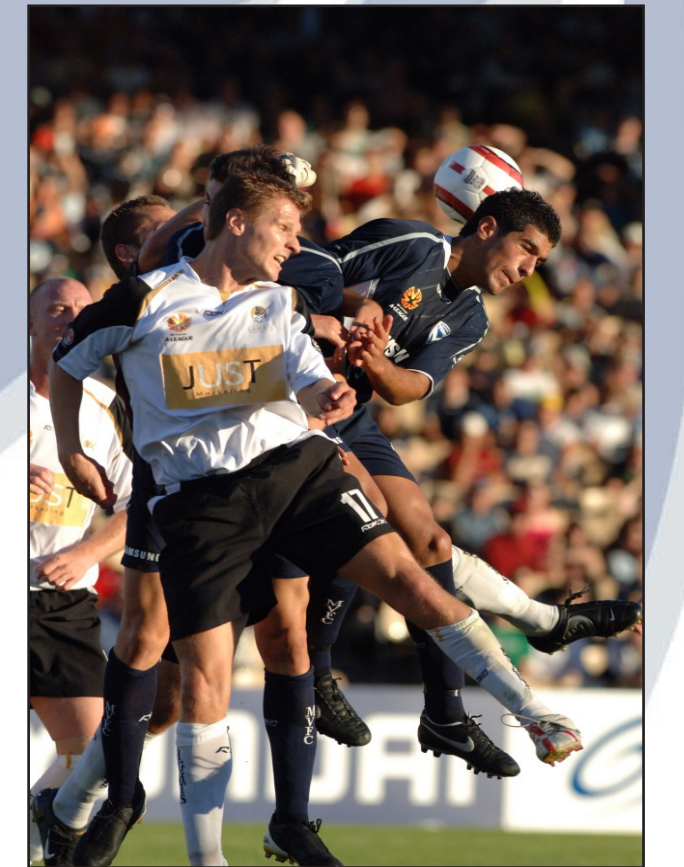
P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
21	7	5	9	26	24	26

Top Scorer:

Archie Thompson: 8 Goals



Victory's Michael Ferrante.



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Goal! Weekly endeavours to act as accurate as
possible with
everything it publishes. The Fair Trading Act 1999
requires Goal! Weekly to
disclaim any belief in the truth or falsity of
information which is supplied to it and which is
published in other than editorial content.

GREAT EXPECTATIONS FOR SOUTH

The media has lauded the four time Aus-
tralian champions, South Melbourne,
as the team to beat for 2006. The for-
mer NSL club's strong pre-season form
(reaching the Hellenic Cup Final and
taking out the Crazy John's Pre-season
Cup) and impressive off-season sign-
ings suggest that the former NSL giant is
ready to tower over its rivals once again.

After being forced to rebuild a squad virtu-
ally from scratch in 2005, South defied the
critics, by becoming the surprise packet of
2005. After just missing out on a Grand Fi-
nal berth in 2005, coach John Anastasiadis'
expectations are again set high for season
2006.

"We really expect to go one better than last
year. We ended up third last year, but after
some promising recruiting we really hope
to step up this year. The boys have been
working hard and I don't see what we can't
do the job. The difference is this year I've
got the advantage of having my team ready
- which wasn't the case last year". A confi-
dent John Anastasiadis said.

Asked if he felt any extra pressure this time
around, John said "[This is South Mel-
bourne, you always feel the pressure and I
hope my players feel the same]".

There has been a substantial increase in the
number of foreign players snapped up by
VPL clubs in the off-season, and South is
no exception. The recruitment of Trinidad
and Tobago international Kevin Nelson and
Jonas Kelly from the Ivory Coast have been
seen as real assets by J.A

"The boys have been great", John said.
"They've been sensational so far and hope-
fully will bring a bit of spice to the team,
making us a better team than last year.

Also, the return of former Bob Jane favou-
rite Tansil Baser from Trabzonspor (Tur-
key) and Andrew Bourakis from Do Hos-
pital (Portugal) will further strengthen the
South's claim as a title contender.

"They both know about what it's like to be
professional and I'm really hoping they can

YOU'VE READ THE PAPER NOW SEE THE FILM

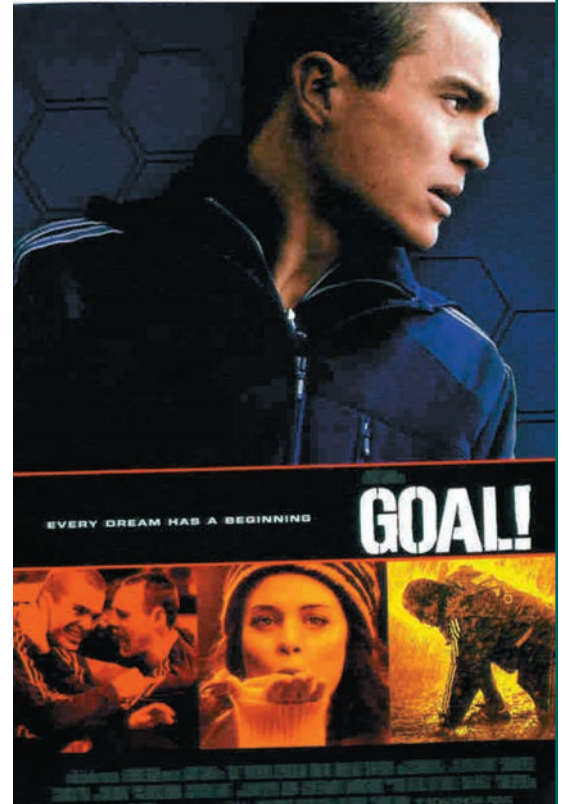
Goal! Weekly In conjunction with
Village Roadshow is offering 15
lucky readers the chance to win
double passes to see this year's big-
gest football film.

Goal! follows the life of a young
Mexican kid with his eyes of foot-
balling greatness. He must battle
with the fear of moving to Europe
and take his chances in the world's
biggest leagues.

Goal! will hit the big screen from the
16th of February and if you can write
in to Goal! Weekly with the correct
answer to the following question
then you can watch it for free:

**What is the name of the lead actor
in the film?**

- A. Speedy Gonzales
- B. Roger Sanchez
- C. Santiago Munez



even help the youngsters. They can both play
in a defensive midfield role and Andrew can
play practically anywhere in midfield".

After a year at the helm and improving list,
JA's South Melbourne is ready to stamp their
claim on the 2006 Vodafone Cup, insuring
once again, that the club from Bob Jane re-
mains at the top of the food chain.

By Bruno Zovko

Champion Football VID HORVAT

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City, Melbourne
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Magic sign Vasilevski

Altona Magic has signed former Melbourne
Knights and most recently Perth Glory star
Daniel Vasilevski further bolstering Ken
Murphy's outfit just in time for the Monday
night clash against Fawkner/Whittlesea
tonight.



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ROUND ONE DETAILS

KINGSTON CITY V SUSHINE GEORGIES
Kingston City 1 – 0 Sunshine Georgies (HT 1-0)
Goals: M.Curcija (KC) 34th pen.
Yellow Cards: M.Stergiopoulos (KC) 10th min,B.Gilmour (SG) 18th, J.Latinopoulos (KC) 25th,I.Filipovic(SG) 30th, J.Spiteri (KC) 52nd, M.Curcija (KC) 56th, E.Suares (SG)59th, I.Erdogan(SG)91st .
Red Cards: I.Filipovic (SG) 33rd.
Kingston: M. Turnbull, S. Iosafidis, C.Anthopoulos, C.Konstas, M.Stergiopoulos, N.Tolios, A.Kiratzoglou (D.Tsiaris 90th), J.Latinopoulos (C.Hermosilla 76th), J. Di Iorio, J.Spiteri, M.Curcija.
Georgies: M.John, I.Erdogan, C.Azzopardi, E.Suares (F.Aghazaly), T.Watson, D.Delic (D.Prodanovic), E.Muscat, B.Gilmour, I.Filipovic, S.Kovacevic, T.Neceski.
Essendon Royals 2 – 3 Richmond Eagles (HT 1-1)
Goals: V.Korcarevski (RE) 2nd, F.Catalano (ER) 40th, M.Catalano (ER) 47th, B.Seni (RE) 73rd, G.Hockless (RE) 76th.
Yellow Cards: D.Pilic (ER) 27th, M.Medjedovic (ER) 33rd, C.Miles (ER) 35th, B.Seni (RE) 35th, P.Serdir (ER) 72nd, T.Celentano (RE) 83rd.
Royals: J.Davey, N.Schwal, T.Nathan, S.Rir, J.Youseff, L.Catalano, F.Catalano (M.Mazzarella 74th), D.Pilic, M.Catalano, M.Medjedovic, C.Miles (V.Pititto 61st).
Eagles: N. Crossley, A.Ross, S.Webster, S.Buurton, B.Beni, J.Rajher (S.Rusmir 68th), T.Celentano, X.Sulemani (C.Jones 15th), D.Visevic, G.Hockless, V.Korcarevski (F.O'Colmain 84th).
Frankston Pines 0 – 2 Bulleen Zebras (HT 0-1)
Goals: A.Drakos (BZ) 34th, H.armenian (BZ) 89th.
Yellow Cards: A.Drakos (BZ) 66th, S.martin (BZ)90th, B.Oucin(FP) 2nd, M.Anderson (FP) 80th.
Red Cards: B.Armour (FP)
Pines: B.Zeally, D.Djulevic, J.Cumming, M.Anderson, C.Metcalfe (D.D'Angelo 46th), B.Oucin, A.Naglieri, N.Waite (A.Oliviera 72nd), C.Leopaold, T.Pasonis (C.Stewart 82nd), B.Armour.
Zebras: T.kovar, D.Tartaglia, A.Drakos, R.Antoniadis, F.Tramontana, S.Bell, S.Martin, C.Emsovski, N.Veljovic (D.Piemonte 76th), B.Harbinson, N.Lazaresk i(H.armenian 53rd).
Heidelberg United 0 – 2 South Melbourne (HT 0-0)
Goals: J.Salley (SM) 91st, T.Baser (SM) 93rd.
Yellow Cards: R.Liparoti (HU) 73rd.
Red Cards: None
Heidelberg: L.Acevski, P.Roberts, D.jones, A.Westerveld, L.Tzoumerkas (Y.Yusef), R.Liparoti, E.Vassiliadis, T.Ouliaris (N.Sabeljak), F.Lagana, S.Parissos. N.Marinos (F.Richards).
South: D.Anastasiadis, A.Tsonis, C.Blatsis, E.Karavitis (GTzirtis),P.Kout-soupias, A.Tsirtakis, J.Salley, R.Tavsancioglu, F.De Moraes, T.Banser, S.MacNicol
Preston Lions 1 – 3 Melbourne Knights (HT 0-3)
Goals: C.Elvin (MK) 18th, L.Slater (MK) 14th, N.Caldwell (MK) 47th pen.
Yellow Cards: N.Antic (MK), G.Taleski (MK), L.Anastasiou (PL).
Red Cards: None
Lions: G.Grueski, Z.Younan, L.Anastasiou (E.Karahan), P.Dimovski, T.Devrimol, S.Manceski (R.Dolevski), S.Oksuz, A.Magnacca, A.Jankovski (N.Kalmar), S.Solevski, S.Pace.
Knights:A.Cagalj, T.Milardovic, N.Antic, R.Casey, C.Elvin, M.Maisano, J.Kozic, G.Talevski, D.Natkovic, L.Slater, N.Caldwell.
Green Gully Cavaliers 1 – 2 Oakleigh Cannons (HT 0-0)
Goals: Vassallo (GG), Kakos (OK), Masi (OK)
Yellow Cards:
Red Cards:
Cavaliers: Team sheets unavailable at time of going to press.
Cannons: Team sheets unavailable at time of going to press.

VODAFONE CUP TABLE

Seniors							
Seniors	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Knights	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
South Melb	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Bulleen	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Richmond	1	1	0	0	3	2	3
Cannons	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Kingston	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Fawkner	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Altona	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Georgies	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Gully	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Essendon	1	0	0	1	2	3	0
Pines	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
Bergers	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
Presto	1	0	0	1	1	3	0



LEADING GOALSCORERS

ROUND 2 FIXTURES

Oakleigh CannonsV Heidelberg United
Jack Edwards Reserve
Mel: 69-H9
Friday 10th February
KO 8.15pm

Frankston Pines v Richmond Eagles
Monterey Reserve
Mel: 99K8
Saturday 11th February
KO 6pm

Altona Magic v Kingston City
Paisley Park
Mel: 55-C5
Saturday 11th February
KO 7.30pm

Melbourne Knights v Essendon Royals
Knights Stadium
Mel: 27-A6
Sunday 12th February
KO 6pm

Sunshine Georgies v Preston Lions
Chaplin Reserve
Mel: 26 G12
Sunday 12th February
KO: 6pm

South Melbourne v Fawkner/Whittlesea
Bob Jane Stadium
Mel: 2K F6
KO 3pm

Bulleen Zebras v Green Gully Cavaliers
Veneto Social Club
Mel: 32 D9
Monday 13th February



VODAFONE CUP

Round 1


LATE GOALS GIVE SOUTH SWEET REVENGE



NEW BOYS BREAK BERGERS' HEARTS

Heidelberg Utd 0 - South Melbourne 2

A South Melbourne newboy and a South oldboy both scored in injury time to dramatically win a game that seemed headed for yet another scoreless draw against its great rival Heidelberg United at Olympic Village on Sunday.

Jonas Salley and Tansel Baser sent the visiting fans into raptures with their goals in South's 2-0 win in the opening round clash of the Vodafone Cup. South probably deserved the result especially for their second half performance when they showed greater purpose in attack.

They were forced to make a late change before kickoff withdrawing new striker Kevin Nelson due to the FFA not clearing his overseas transfer papers in time.

Peter Koutsoupas came in as a replacement striker to partner Fernando DeMoraes in the South attack.

Heidelberg started with new signing Saranti Parissos up front alongside Nick Marinos.

An early long ball out of Heidelberg's defence found Marinos in space behind the South back four but his shot flew over the bar. This set the pattern for many of Heidelberg's moves into the forward line as they increasingly relied on a long ball game targeting Parissos.

South looked more composed through the middle but was unable to provide a quality final pass. Con Blatsis ventured out of defence to provide an element of surprise in attack.

South began to gain the upper hand early in the second half through their increasing control of the middle. In one of the best moves of the game, they strung six or seven passes together out of defence ending with Blatsis's header over the bar from a DeMoraes cross.

Further good chances fell to Koutsoupas at the edge of the six yard box, and Blatsis who miss hit a volley from close range.

Heidelberg coach, Phil Stubbins introduced substitute midfielders Nick Sabljak, Yusuf Yusuf and Fidel Richards in an attempt to bring creativity into the middle.

But it was South who continued to find the openings.

South won a final corner in injury time and broke the deadlock when Jonas Salley headed home from close range.

South fans were still cheering when Scott McNicol's pass put Tansel Baser through on goal. Heidelberg keeper Lou Acevski could only watch helplessly as Baser's cool lob sailed over him into the net.

George Stogiannou



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VODAFONE CUP

Round 1



EAGLES FINALLY LAND IN THE BIG-TIME



UK IMPORT GRAHAM HOCKLESS NETS WINNER FOR NEWCOMERS

Essendon Royals 2 - Richmond Eagles 3

The Vodafone Cup kicked off in emphatic fashion on Friday night as the newly promoted Richmond Eagles downed a spirited Essendon Royals 3-2 at the Veneto Club, in front of a crowd of approximately 500 fans.

An enthralling contest saw the Eagles overcome Essendon by the barest of margins after a speculative effort by Graham Hockless proved to be the match winner. A goalkeeping error by the usually steady Joel Davey handed Richmond the three points along with a promising start in Victoria's top-flight competition.

As the contest started, Richmond opened the scoring in stellar fashion with a lightning second minute strike by former Heidelberg attacker Veton Korcarevski, which shell-shocked the Essendon side. Following a quick throw-in, Korcarevski received the ball and proceeded to shoot on the bounce across the goal as the ball hit the inside of the far post and into the back of the net. Royals 'keeper Davey stood still in bewilderment.

Soon after, a free kick taken by UK import Graham Hockless went agonisingly close of the mark, an ominous sign for the under siege Royals.

Richmond controlled the contest playing attacking football that is likely to win them many fans,

whilst Essendon looked sluggish early and struggled to maintain possession.

The Royals were pushed on the back foot but soon showed signs of life as a pile driver from Cameron Miles was fended off by Australian youth international 'keeper Nick Crossley. However, this was only a minor setback for the rampant Eagles who were soon given another chance on goal. Former Royals stalwart Tony Celentano played fellow recruit Korcarevski in on goal, but following a block from a Royals defender, the ball rolled just wide of the mark.

In an example of the end-to-end nature of the contest, moments later, a speculative cross by Brendan Beni deceived all as it floated just high of the mark.

Tall striker Joseph Youseff was elevated to the first team in an attempt to fill the void left behind by the mercurial Michael Curcija, and he soon detailed his intentions to all as he sent a dipping shot just high of the goal in the Royals first meaningful attack. At the other end of the park, Hockless continued his busy night playing a ball out wide to substitute Cameron Jones, whose shot was misjudged by 'keeper Davey as it crawled into the post.

Essendon coach Luciano Trani urged his side to fight back and it was gifted a chance to score, as

a ball rebounded out of the box from a corner and fell at the feet of former Brisbane Strikers man David Pilic, who was only able to shoot wide of the target.

As the half moved into the latter stages, Pilic's confidence grew and almost grabbed an equaliser as a clever flick by Youseff played Pilic through but his first time lob went over the crossbar from five metres out.

The entertaining contest soon stepped up in intensity as Frank Catalano levelled the ledger for the Royals. After a ball played out from the right by Cameron Miles, Catalano received the ball and drove it low to the left of the 'keeper pulling Essendon back into the contest.

Essendon's resurgence continued into the second half and two minutes in they emphatically hit the front as following a strong shot on goal by Youseff. Crossley was only able to parry the ball away, but Michael Catalano pounced on the ball unleashing a breathtaking volley into the back of the net.

Despite the fast paced nature of the contest, both sides struggled to conjure a scoring chance, while the referee was active throughout a fiery match, which saw the yellow card awarded to numerous players from both sides.

As the game ebbed and flowed

Richmond soon regained dominance and limited the Royals' ability to push forward. Essendon stood steadfast in defence, preventing the Eagles onslaught from breaching the penalty area. However, the Essendon resistance soon ended with a foul by Serdar Pir on Korcarevski. Midfielder Steve Burton took the resulting free kick and made no mistake as the ball curled into the top left hand corner of the net.

In the 76th minute, Richmond soon regained the lead as a hopeful effort by Graham Hockless from long range caught 'keeper Joel Davey off guard and he watched the ball roll off the post and into the goal. Davey's error in judgement capped off a horror night for the Royals' custodian who seemed indecisive all match.

As time wound down, Essendon pushed forward in search of an equaliser, only to be exploited on the break in numerous occasions. Two minutes before the final whistle, Essendon came tremendously close to stealing an equaliser as a header by Michael Mazzarella was headed off the line by Steve Burton.

The result sees Richmond begin its inaugural Vodafone Cup campaign in style, while the Royals will be hoping for better luck in round two.

By Simon Chiarelli

Luciano Trani Coach, Essendon Royals:

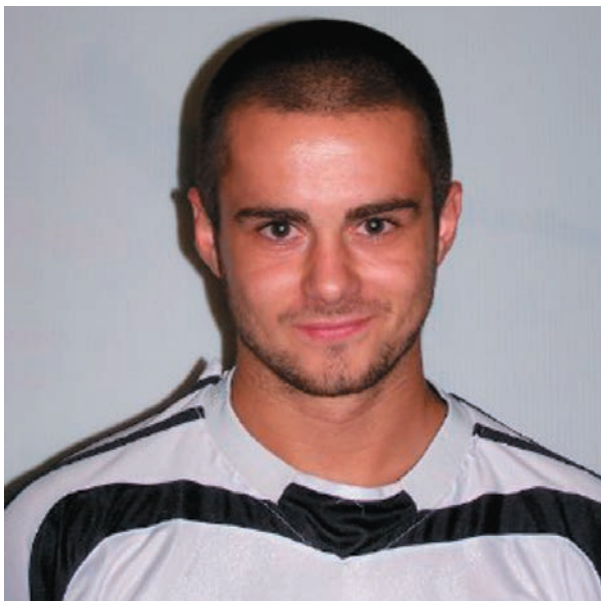
It was a very entertaining game fluctuating between both teams. Richmond probably had the first 15-20 minutes before we got settled and got into the game. Disappointed we gave away a couple of silly goals...something we'll have to address during the week. We were really committed to the cause and I can't be critically with the effort applied. No one wants to lose the first game of the year after training so hard for three months. We've just got to put it aside and move on.

Dean Hennessy Coach, Richmond Eagles:

I thought it was a good spectacle where both teams played some good football. From our point of view, the club's waited a long time for this and everyone was excited by the prospect. We got off to a great start and scored after a minute forty seconds...we hit the woodwork, missed a one on one - It could have been 3 or 4 nil after half an hour and no one could have really complained. They had their spell during the game of course, which evened things out a bit, but I was happy with my boys who put in a credible and spirited performance.



Veton Korcarevski opened the scoring in the opening five minutes of the match



UK import Graham Hockless came through with the winner stunning Royals fans



Royals' Captain Nick Schwall



VODAFONE CUP

Round 1


KNIGHTS OUTFOX LIONS



KNIGHTS TAKE THE HONOURS IN BIG DERBY

Preston Lions 1 - Melbourne Knights 3

Three goals by the Melbourne Knights in the first half was enough to secure a valuable 3-1 away win against their cross town rivals, Preston Lions, at B.T Conner Reserve. The Knight's outfoxed their cross town rivals, countering on the break. The three first half strikes by the patient visitors silenced the majority 4,000 strong crowd at B.T Connor reserve on Sunday evening.

The home side opened brightly, and should have taken the lead in the fourth minute through Tayfun Devrimol. Fortunately for the Knights', new recruit Devrimol (Bonnyrigg Eagles), who shinned his shot over the bar from the five yard box, after a free kick by Preston.

The Lions kept pressing forward, with new recruit, Devrimol, imposing himself for the Lions in the midfield. But it was the Knights who drew first blood against in the 14th minute through a Luke Slater volley, after a superb cross from the left by the former Irish U/21 international, Ryan Casey.

Before the home team could draw breath, Craig Elvin buried the Knight's

second three minutes later, with a superb pile driver just outside the box. The visitors second silenced the strong home crowd, as the Knights controlled the tempo for remainder of the half.

Just before the half time whistle, Knight's midfielder Marco Maisano waltzed inside Preston's penalty area, before being brought down unceremoniously by Anthony Magnacca. Nathan Caldwell slotted home the spot kick, giving the resurgent Knight's a 3-0 lead into the break.

Six minutes after the restart, Lions substitute and former Knight's junior, Nick Kalmar, scored virtually from his first touch in the VPL, beating the Knights captain at the near post. Kalmar's goal lifted the home side, as the Lion's began to turn the screws on the visitors.

The Lions came close to pegging a second in the 59th minute from a Zaya Younan strike, which was parried away for a corner by Cagalj. A minute later, Devrimol's shot was cleared off the line by a spectacular Neven Antic bicycle kick.

Caldwell spurned a golden opportunity

for the Knight's seven minutes later, after the Knights' talisman failed to beat the Preston's Keeper, Gruevski, in a one-on-one. The Knight's settled after Caldwell's attempt, slowing the tempo of the game, and in the end, cruising home to comfortable 3-1 away win.

Vlado Vanis
Coach, Preston Lions:

Joe Biskic
Coach, Melbourne Knights :



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Monday 6 February 2006



VODAFONE CUP

Round 1



SEASON KICKS OFF WITH FIREWORKS APLENTY



CURCIJA PICKS UP WHERE HE LEFT OFF IN NEW SHADE OF RED

Kingston City 1 - Sunshine Georgies 0

Smack! Bang! The 2006 Vodafone Cup kicked off under lights at Osborne Ave in a fiercely contested encounter, which saw no less than six yellow cards and one red card brandished between the "Millionaires" of Kingston City and the young Sunshine Georgies. Amongst all the fireworks, last season's top marksmen Michael Curcija was able to give the home side a 1-0 victory, after converting a penalty in the 32nd minute.

Using the 8-0 hammering handed out by the Georgies U21's in the curtain raiser as self-belief, the young Georgies settled quicker and could have taken an early lead. Sunshine's Trent Waterson proved to be the catalyst with his electrifying pace and dangerous crossing. In the second minute Waterson's through ball released Tony Neceski through on goals, however the veteran's attempted chip drifted just over Michael Turnbull's cross bar.

Seven minutes later the dangerous Waterson swung in a free kick which

found the lanky Simon Kovacevic unmarked at the back post. Unfortunately, for the Georgies his powerful header lacked accuracy and narrowly skimmed past the left hand upright, leaving the Sunshine faithful gasping.

Football being the cruel game it is, meant Sunshine would rue their missed opportunities. The Georgies were reduced to ten men in the 32nd minute, after Ivan Filipovic was sent off with his second caution in two minutes. Filipovic deliberately handled the ball on the goal line. This gifted the Reds an opportunity from the spot, and was duly converted by the former Royals striker Curcija, who stayed calm and slotted the ball past a despairing John.

The Georgies found it difficult to penetrate with their numerical disadvantage, and clearly became frustrated when they started to commit unnecessary tackles, fuelling minor melees.

The Reds ability to turn defence into attack will prove to be pivotal throughout the long season

and should have paid dividends in the latter stages on Friday night. In the 85th minute, Martin John gave his side a glimmer of hope when he produced a desperate acrobatic save to deny Joe Spiteri's back post header. The Reds continued to press on the break, and deep into injury time, Curcija had a golden opportunity to improve his personal goal tally when he found himself one on one with John, however the "golden boot" winner could only screw his shot wide of the goals.

Despite the result, Chris Taylor would be reasonably content with his team's performance, as they played some enterprising football without much reward. In contrast, the Reds would be delighted with three points in their first Vodafone Cup encounter, even though their performance wasn't convincing. History will tell you that championship teams win even when they play poorly.

By Chris Priftis

George Katsakis Coach, Kingston City:

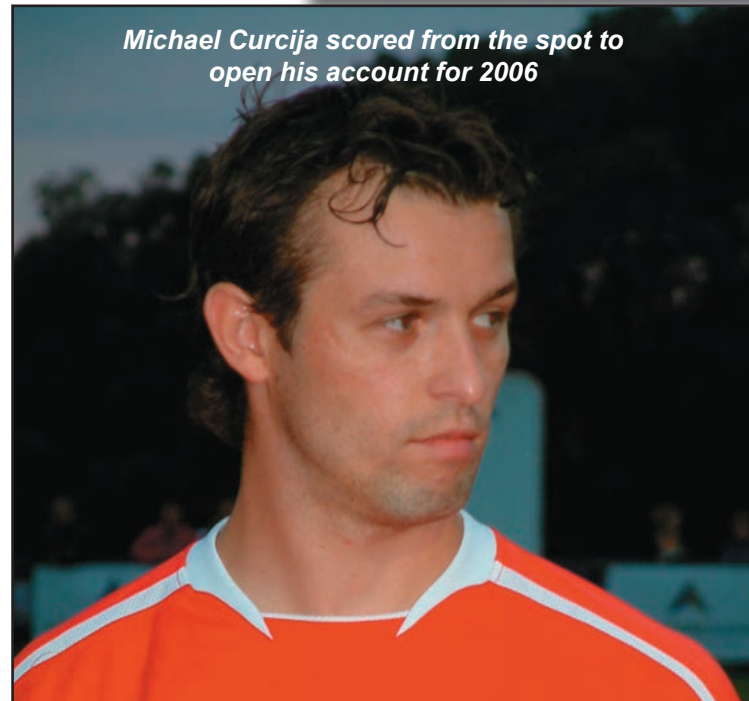
It's always good to get off to a winning start. We'll take the three points, but we've definitely got a lot of work to do. We've got a lot of quality and a few good boys in our team and I'm sure as we progress I feel that we'll put it together even though it might just take a few weeks. It's a good start, but we've just got to get on with it.

Chris Taylor Coach, Sunshine Georgies :

Look, I was quite proud of my guys. We came here as the underdog and for me, we came out of it with a lot more credit than Kingston. I know you can't be happy losing 1-0 but the boys gave everything they had and I thought the officials are what we come to expect in the Premier League. The league is improving every year and the officials just seem to be getting worse. Nice guys, but nice guys don't always make for good referees and unfortunately they cost us here today. It wasn't all one way but some of the decisions defied belief.



Heaven's Above: The Hon. Labor MP Simon Crean tossed the coin to kick-off proceedings for 2006 on Friday night. Sunshine's Manny Muscat and officials look on.



Michael Curcija scored from the spot to open his account for 2006

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VODAFONE CUP

Round 1


CANNONS STUN CHAMPIONS

KAKOS AND MASSEY SCORE LATE GOALS



Green Gully Cavaliers 1 - Oakleigh Cannons 2

In two stunning minutes of football, Oakleigh erased an improbable deficit to dethrone defending champion Green Gully 2-1 and get its 2006 Vodafone Cup season off to flying start on Sunday.

The Cannons stole all three points after scoring two goals in two minutes late in the second half after the Cavaliers took a 1-0 lead into the main interval.

In a game of momentum swings and plenty of chances, the visiting Oakleigh team was the first to settle in the first game of the season, setting up a number of genuine chances in the opening 30 minutes.

Gully goalkeeper Pasi Schwalger came to the rescue of his side on numerous occasions early in the match as the Cannons midfielders and forwards peppered the goal, but initially there was no way through.

The premiers looked off colour as make-shift striker Joel Nikolic found his feet, but it did not take long for the hard-working Cavaliers midfield to get into the game.

In a split second the trend of the match was halted when Jeffry Fleming played a perfect through ball to Brandon Vassallo, who blasted the ball into the net off the post to break the deadlock.

The goal sapped the positive energy of the Cannons, who clearly had the better of the early going, but jerked Green Gully into action as they began to take control of possession.

The Vassallo goal separated the sides as they entered the rooms for half time, with both coaches making changes for the start of an action-packed second half. Daniel Debevc replaced Nikolic for the Cavaliers, but it was the introduction of Oakleigh forward Esala Masi which would have the biggest influence on the result. Masi looked capable of breaking the deadlock from his first touch and, in partnership with Pater Kakos, Oakleigh was far from out of the contest.



Gully's Andy Vargas goes in hard for the tackle

With 16 minutes of normal time remaining, Sam Poutakidis delivered an inch-perfect cross to the head of Kakos, who miss-hit his header but saw it roll past the outstretched arms of Schwalger for the equaliser.

A minute later the travelling Oakleigh fans rose in unison when Poutakidis again turned provider, this time whipping a pass to Masi, who gave the Gully keeper no chance with a glancing header.

The Cavalier faithful looked on in shock

but it was a just reward for a Cannons outfit keen to prove itself as a force in the 2006 Vodafone Cup.

By James Spader

Ian Dobson
Coach, Green Gully:

Stuart Munro
Coach, Oakleigh Cannons :



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EVERY WEDNESDAY 9PM





VODAFONE CUP

Round 1



ZEBRAS OPEN ACCOUNT WITH AWAY WIN



Frankston Pines 0 - Bulleen Zebras 2



Bulleen Zebras started the season the best way possible with 2 – 0 win over Frankston Pines in round one of the Vodafone Cup.

Still, the match gave very little indication of how each team may fair this season when the match was almost decided in the 8th minute. Frankston Pines defender Billy Amour received a straight red card after been involved in an incident with Bulleen's Ben Harbinson.

As you would expect Bulleen slowly took advantage of an extra man on the pitch. It eventuated in the first goal of the match that at the 34th minute mark thanks to a superb 25-yard strike from Ari Drakos.

It took a long time for anything else interesting to write about when Bulleen Zebras made it 2 – 0 in the 89th minute. Substitute player Hamlet Ademinan grabbed the Zebras second goal with a well-taken shot that was whipped into the back net.

Unfortunately, during the match, both Frankston Pines and Bulleen Zebras lack that sparkle to make the match a memorable one.

It was certainly a frustrating start for Frankston Pines and new coach Craig Lewis but a week is a long time in this game. They will need to forget this day and quickly regroup for the round 2 home fixture against Richmond Eagles.

Fact is, Bulleen Zebras under new coach Michael Michaelakoupols got the start they needed, no matter how convincing or not they were. Next week they have another away match in a local derby against Heidelberg United.

Craig Lewis
Coach, Frankston Pines:

Michael Michalakopoulos
Coach, Bulleen Zebras :





VODAFONE CUP

Round 1


ROUND ONE ACTION CONTINUES TONIGHT

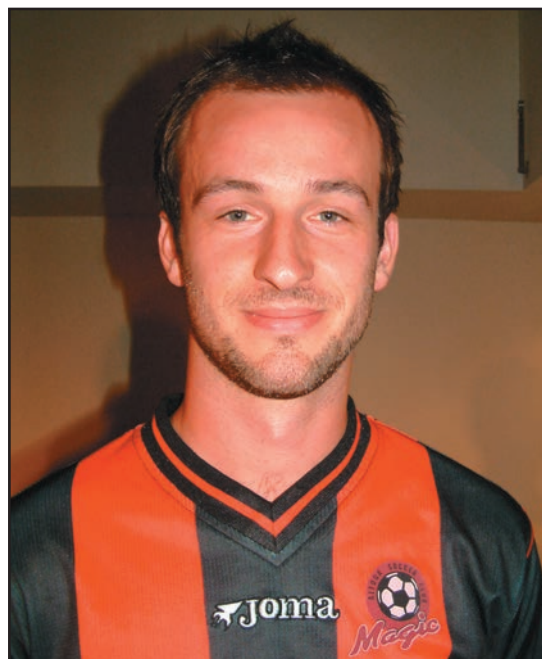


VODAFONE FINALS ASPIRANTS SET TO CLASH

Fawkner/Whittlesea v Altona Magic



Fawkner's Steve Tilovski.



Altona Magic's Stiven Mrkela.

Highly fancied, Fawkner/Whittlesea, face off against fellow 2005 VPL finalists, Altona Magic, at Epping Stadium tonight.

Both teams will be eager to open their accounts for the new season, making amends for last years disappointing finals campaign. Both the Blues and Magic crashed out 3-0 by Oakleigh and South respectively in the first week of the 2005 finals series.

The 'Blues' home ground advantage and good pre-season form, which it saw them make the final of the Crazy Johns Cup, will see the home team start as favorites. The signing of Johnny Sapazovski from Preston, who was the Lions leading marksman in season 2005, and highly talented Jurica Siljanovski from Macedonian first division, has added a cutting edge to the Blues' attack.

Not to be outdone, Magic's great pre-season form, one loss in seven games, will give the Magic the required confidence to take on their highly skilled opponents from Epping.

The Magic have also bolstered their squad, with the recent signing of Daniel Vasilevski from A-League club, Perth Glory, which could prove to be the catch of the season. Also, the signings of brothers, Tomi and Ivan Razov from the Knight's and the Saints respectively, will give the boys from Altona an injection of speed, penetration, and width on the flanks.

Overall, the experience of John Markovski's men, who are well led by captain Sasa Ogdenovski, should prove to be to strong for the new look Magic at home. But I'm sure that Ken Murphy will have other ideas on the result.

By Bruno Zovko

Tony Ciancar
Asst Coach, Fawkner/Whittlesea:
The boys have worked really hard during the pre-season and we went into our last training session really focussed and pumped-up for this game. We want to make amends for last year and feel it's going to be a big year for the club. We would have preferred to have a few more games under our belt in the lead up, but we're confident we can put a strong team out there tonight who can do the job. We're absolutely fired up and ready to go.

Ken Murphy
Coach, Altona Magic:
We're going to go out there to try and win it, the same as any other game this season. I think we've got a reasonable squad...it's as good as any other Premier League club and there's no reason why we can't go into this game with the high expectations to start the season on a winning note...whether that happens or not remains to be seen. If everything comes together...psychologically, mentality towards the game and their capability not to make too many mistakes...but this is something that we'll discover during the course of the season.

MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL

FAWKNER/WHITTLESEA
V
ALTONA MAGIC

EPPING STADIUM
(MEL REF: 182 C4)

KO 8.15PM
MONDAY 6TH FEBRUARY



FOOTBALL FOCUS...WITH MARCUS STERGIOPOULOS

Kingston City
Position: Midfield
Age: 31

Preferred position?
 Holding midfield.

Outfield players you most enjoy watching?
 Billy Damianos in the Vodafone Cup.

In the world, I like following David Beckham both on & off the park. I like the players who are the quiet achievers, Roy Keane, Claude Makelele & Vince Grella. However, the best player I've ever played with is by far, Wynton Rufer.

Hardest keeper and team to score against?
 Dean Anastasiadis and South Melbourne.

Occupation?
 National Business Development Manager.

Craziest team mate of all time?
 Claudio Canosa.

Most influential coaches?
 Frank Arok, Wynton Rufer & Stuart Munro.

Most memorable match as a player?
 1997/98 NSL Grand Final, Carlton v South Melbourne. I scored Carlton's equaliser with my first touch after being on the field less than 60 seconds. Mark Bresciano laid off a delightful ball for me to strike from 25 yards that left Michael Petkovic rooted to the spot.

As a fan?
 2006 World Cup play off – Australia v Uruguay at Telstra Stadium. You could not ask for more – two hours of football, extra time, penalties and Australia qualify for their first World Cup since 1974. I was at the game – it was emotional, the national anthem was ringing in my ear for hours afterwards and to see my fellow team mates, Mark Bresciano and Vince Grella was another special occasion for me. Magic!

Where were you when Australia drew 2-2 with Iran?

At the MCG with Andy Vlahos. You could hear a pin drop after Iran scored their second.

Predict the following results:

Australia vs Japan – 2-1
 Australia vs Brazil – 1-2
 Australia vs Croatia – 1-1

Your tip for the 2006 World Cup?

Honestly, I think Australia will be a dark horse, and you can't go past, England, Germany or Italy.

Representative honours?

WA, NSW & Victorian senior state teams

Describe your time at Lincoln City?

The club went into administration, however it was a close knit family club who treated the players well. My wife and I made some good friends with whom we stay in contact with now. The standard wasn't the best, as the lower down you go in the football league the less teams play. It's all about kick, run and tackle.

Most memorable goal you've scored?

My debut goal for Bradford City v Wigan Athletic in 1991. It wasn't spectacular; it was just my first senior goal at 17 years of age.

Record number of juggles in single attempt?

I've drank five jugs of beer in one session, oh you mean juggles – no idea!

Steak, chicken parma or seafood?
 Chicken all the way.

Chips, veggies or salad?
 Greek Salads.

Pizza or souvlaki (if Pizza, what type)?
 Oakleigh Cannons' souvlakis.

Favourite drink, alcoholic and non alcoholic?
 Budweiser and Staminade.

Favourite nightspot?
 Area 61.

My next holiday destination is...
 Greece.

Kitchen whiz or home handyman?
 Both. When my wife and I moved into our new house, the house we were renting had scuff marks on the walls from wear and tear. So I brought a cheap paint brush and matched up the paint in the house. I then proceed to paint the scuff marks. The following couple of days later I returned with the agent who took one look at the walls to see the catastrophic mess I'd made after the paint had dried. The fresh paint was different to the old paint and the inside had to be re-painted. I look back now and laugh, but at the time it was an expensive mistake!

What's in the CD player right now?

2006 Ministry of Sound, chicks love it!

Dream date?

Pamela Anderson, I hear she's made a home movie.

Match day superstitions or rituals?
 Always shave the night before a game.

Typical matchday meal?

Homemade chicken, mushroom, bacon & spring onion penne carbonara.

Favorite sporting team while growing up?

Essendon and Everton.

What are your strengths?

Ability to keep passion in tight areas, communication on and off the field and passing.

What are your weaknesses?

Don't score enough goals.

Toughest opponent?

My wife.

Select a player that you play most like?

Vince Grella.

Which team do you select when playing FIFA soccer on a computer game?

Manchester United – even though I

don't support them the players are all well known.

What is the last soccer shirt you bought?

Everton home shirt at age 13.

Funniest rumour you have heard about yourself?

I heard that I was gay. My response was – “yes, I'm a lesbian trapped in a man's body”.

With one being the lowest and 10 being the highest, how good is Marcus Stergiopoulos?

8 – 4 + 3 + 1 – 5 + 6 – 2, what was the question again?

Childhood soccer idol?

Glen Hoddle.

Favorite former Socceroo?

Paul Okon.

Favourite current Socceroo?

Vince Grella, Mark Bresciano and Harry Kewell.

What song or movie to do you get inspiration from?

Anything Ministry of Sound, and Rocky.

Do you watch Footballers Wives?

Love it – if only it was like that though, chicks everywhere.

Most hostile away crowd?

When I was playing for Bradford City, Leeds United was a scary place for a 17 year old.

Complete this sentence. If I didn't play football I'd play...tennis.

What fictional character would you most like to be?

James Bond for the cars, toys and girls.

Hollywood is making a movie about your career. Who would you select to play you in a movie?

James Bond, because he gets the girls at the end.

By John Bonacci



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TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Deutschland Bound!




Back row- Kenwyne Jones, Marvin Andrews, Kelvin Jack, Avery John, Dennis Lawrence, Dwight Marks

Front row - Chris Birchall, Carlos Edwards, Cyd Gray, Stern John and Auritis Whitley



MARCUS STERGIOPOULOS

KINGSTON CITY FC



HOLLAND

Deutschland Bound!



Back Row: Ruud van Nistelrooy, Edwin van der Sar, Jan Kromkamp, Philip Cocu, Hedwiges Maduro en Barry Opdam.
Front Row: Arjen Robben, Dirk Kuijt, Khalid Boulahrouz, Tim de Cler en Denny Landzaat



Coach: Marco van Basten.

Key players: Ruud van Nistelrooy, Edwin van der Sar, Phillip Cocu.

World Cup record: Eighth appearance; runner-up (1974, 1978).

Last appearance: Semifinals 1998.

World Cup odds: 11-1.

How qualified: Won European Group 1.

Group C

Serbia and Montenegro v Holland: Leipzig, Sunday 11th June 2006 KO3pm

Holland v Czech Republic: Stuttgart, Friday 16th June 2006 KO6pm

Holland v Argentina: Frankfurt, Wednesday 21st June 2006 KO9pm

*KO in German Summer Time





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WOMEN'S PAGE**

WORLD FOOTBALL

English Premiership

Birmingham – Arsenal	0 - 2
Bolton – Wigan	1 - 1
Everton – Manchester C	1 - 0
Manchester U – Fulham	4 - 2
Middlesbrough - Aston Villa	0 - 4
Newcastle – Portsmouth	2 - 0
West Bromwich – Blackburn	2 - 0
West Ham – Sunderland	2 - 0

1.Chelsea	24	20	3	1	63
2. Man U	25	15	6	4	49 – 26
3. Liverpool	22	13	6	3	30 - 13
4. Tottenham	24	11	8	5	31 - 20
5. Arsenal	24	12	4	8	38 - 19
6. Wigan	25	12	3	10	30 – 31
7. Bolton	23	10	8	5	29 - 22
8. West Ham	25	11	5	9	36 - 34
9. Blackburn	24	11	4	9	31 – 30
10. Man C	25	10	4	11	33 - 28
11. Everton	25	10	3	12	18 - 32
12. Aston V	25	7	9	9	31 - 33
13. Charlton	22	9	3	10	27 – 31
14. Fulham	25	8	5	12	30 – 36
15. Newcastle	24	8	5	11	22 - 28
16. WBA	25	7	5	13	23 - 32
17. M'brough	24	6	7	11	30 – 44
18. B'ham	24	5	5	14	21 - 34
19. Portsmouth	25	4	6	15	17 - 42
20. Sunderland	24	2	3	19	17 – 45

English Championship

Burnley – Plymouth	1 - 0
Coventry - Brighton	2 - 0
Crewe – Reading	3 - 4
Crystal Palace - Cardiff	1 - 0
Leeds – Queens PR	2 - 0
Leicester – Wolves	1 - 0
Luton – Hull	2 - 3
Millwall - Sheffield W	0 - 1
Southampton -Derby	0 - 0
Stoke - Preston	0 - 0

1. Reading	32	24	7	1	70 - 19
2. Sheffield U	31	21	6	4	58 - 28
3. Leeds	31	17	7	7	44 - 25
4. Watford	31	15	10	6	53 - 37
5. Crystal Pal	31	15	7	9	45 - 31
6. Preston	31	12	15	4	39 - 22
7. Cardiff	32	12	9	11	42 - 38
8. Luton	32	13	5	14	47 - 44
9. Wolves	31	10	13	8	34 - 27
10. Burnley	32	12	7	13	40 - 40
11. Coventry	32	10	11	11	44 - 45
12. Norwich	31	11	6	14	35 - 44
13. Stoke	31	12	3	16	35 - 44
14. QPR	32	10	9	13	36 - 46
15. Plymouth	31	9	11	11	29 - 37
16. Ipswich	31	9	11	11	34 - 44
17. S'oton	32	7	15	10	30 - 34
18. Hull	32	9	9	14	35 - 40
19. Derby	32	6	15	11	40 - 48
20. Sheff W	32	8	9	15	25 - 39
21. Leicester	32	7	11	14	33 - 42

SCOTLAND

Aberdeen – Kilmarnock	2 - 2
Celtic – Dundee United	3 - 3
Dunfermline - Motherwell	1 - 1
Hearts – Hibernian	4 - 1
Livingston – Falkirk	0 - 1
Inverness – Rangers	2 - 3

1. Celtic	24	18	4	2	63 - 26
2. Hearts	24	15	5	4	49 - 19
3. Rangers	24	12	7	5	44 - 28
4. Hibernian	24	13	2	9	41 - 34
5. Kilmarnock	24	10	7	7	44 - 39
6. Inverness	24	8	10	6	32 - 25
7. Motherwell	24	8	6	10	38 - 43
8. Aberdeen	24	6	11	7	27 - 29
9. Dundee Uni	24	6	8	10	28 - 39
10. Falkirk	24	5	5	14	24 - 48
11. Dunfermline	24	3	5	16	19 - 45
12. Livingston	24	2	6	16	13 - 47

French Liga 1

Ajaccio - Auxerre	1 - 0
Lens - Strasbourg	2 - 1
Nice - Lille	2 - 0
Paris SG - Saint Etienne	2 - 2
Rennes - Monaco	1 - 3
Sochaux - Le Mans	0 - 0
Toulouse - Nantes	1 - 0

P W D L F

2. Bordeaux	24	12	9	3	22 - 12
3. Auxerre	25	13	3	9	32 - 25
4. Lille	25	11	7	7	34 - 19
5. Paris SG	24	11	5	8	30 - 24
6. Lens	25	8	13	4	32 - 21
7. Monaco	24	10	6	8	25 - 19
8. Le Mans	25	10	6	9	24 - 19
9. Marseille	24	10	6	8	25 - 27
10. St Etienne	24	8	10	6	23 - 22
11. Nice	24	8	9	7	19 - 19
12. Toulouse	25	9	6	10	25 - 28
13. Nancy	24	9	5	10	24 - 19
14. Rennes	25	10	2	13	25 - 38
15. Nantes	24	8	6	10	24 - 24
16. Sochaux	25	6	9	10	18 - 25
17. Troyes	23	6	7	10	21 - 29
18. Ajaccio	25	4	8	13	14 - 29
19. Strasbg	24	2	9	13	15 - 32
20. Metz	24	2	8	14	14 - 39

German Bundesliga

Hamburger SV - Arminia Bielefeld	2 - 1
Werder Bremen - Mainz 05	4 - 2
1.FC Koln - Stuttgart	0 - 0
MSV Duisburg - Kaiserslautern	2 - 2
Schalke 04 - Dortmund	0 - 0
Bayern Munchen - Leverkusen	1 - 0
Frankfurt - Hertha BSC	1 - 1

1. Bayern Munchen	19	16	2	1	39 - 13
2. Werder Bremen	19	13	3	3	51 - 23
3. Hamburger SV	19	12	5	2	31 - 12
4. Schalke 04	19	9	8	2	22 - 12
5. Hertha BSC	19	7	7	5	29 - 26
6. Stuttgart	19	5	11	3	21 - 18
7. Monchengladbach	18	6	7	5	25 - 24
8. Dortmund	19	6	7	6	26 - 26
9. Hannover 96	18	4	10	4	27 - 24
10. Leverkusen	19	5	7	7	26 - 28
11. Frankfurt	19	6	4	9	26 - 30
12. Arminia Bielefeld	19	5	5	9	22 - 28
13. Mainz 05	19	5	4	10	30 - 32
14. Wolfsburg	18	4	6	8	19 - 32
15. Nurnberg	18	4	5	9	20 - 31
16. MSV Duisburg	19	3	7	9	18 - 33
17. 1.FC Koln	19	3	4	12	26 - 43
18. Kaiserslautern	19	3	4	12	25 - 48

Italian Serie A

Siena	Ascoli	1 - 1
Parma	Roma	0 - 3

1. Juventus	22	19	2	1	47 - 13
2. Inter Milan	22	16	3	3	45 - 16
3. Milan	22	15	2	5	48 - 23
4. Fiorentina	22	13	5	4	38 - 22
5. Roma	23	12	6	5	42 - 22
6. Livorno	22	10	7	5	24 - 23
7. Chievo	22	9	7	6	30 - 25
8. Lazio	22	8	9	5	29 - 26
9. Sampdoria	22	9	5	8	35 - 29
10. Palermo	22	6	8	8	30 - 35
11. Udinese	22	7	5	10	23 - 32
12. Siena	23	6	7	10	29 - 38
13. Ascoli	23	5	9	9	24 - 30
14. Reggina	22	6	4	12	21 - 36
15. Messina	22	4	9	9	19 - 29
16. Parma	23	5	6	12	26 - 42
17. Cagliari	22	4	7	11	20 - 34
18. Empoli	22	5	4	13	24 - 39
19. Treviso	22	2	7	13	13 - 30
20.Lecce	22	3	4	15	15 - 38

Dutch Eredivisie

FC Groningen - Heracles	0 - 0
NAC - Sparta	0 - 0
AZ - Vitesse	1 - 1
PSV - Roda JC	3 - 2

1. PSV	22	17	3	2	45 - 14
2. AZ	22	15	4	3	55 - 21
3. Feyenoord	21	15	3	3	54 - 19
4. FC Gronin	22	11	4	7	30 - 25
5. FC Utrecht	21	10	6	5	32 - 24
6. NEC	21	10	5	6	28 - 22
7. Ajax	21	10	4	7	35 - 27
8. SC Heeren	21	9	6	6	40 - 32
9. Vitesse	22	10	3	9	34 - 31
10. RKC	21	9	4	8	36 - 37
11.Roda JC	22	8	2	12	34 - 42
12.Heracles	22	7	5	10	23 - 41
13.FC Twente	21	6	4	11	25 - 27
14. Sparta	22	5	6	11	18 - 29
15. NAC	22	5	6	11	25 - 40
16.Den Haag	21	5	3	13	22 - 42
17. Willem II	22	3	5	14	24 - 47
18. RBC	22	0	5	17	13 - 53

Spanish La Liga

Malaga - Athletic				2 - 1
Real Madrid - Espanyol	4 - 0			

1. Barcelona	21	16	4	1	52 - 16
2. R Madrid	22	13	3	6	42 - 23
3. Valencia	21	11	7	3	32 - 19
4. Osasuna	21	12	3	6	27 - 23
5. Sevilla	21	10	5	6	27 - 20
6. Villarreal	21	9	7	5	27 - 20
7. Deportivo	21	9	6	6	30 - 24
8. Celta	21	10	3	8	23 - 24
9. Getafe	21	8	4	9	29 - 26
10. Zaragoza	21	6	10	5	27 - 27
11. Atletico	21	6	8	7	23 - 22
12. Racing	21	5	9	7	19 - 25
13. Espanyol	22	6	6	10	20 - 33
14. Betis	21	5	7	9	17 - 27
15. Sociedad	21	6	4	11	30 - 42
16. Cadiz	21	5	6	10	16 - 25
17. Malaga	22	5	5	12	26 - 34
18. Athletic	22	4	7	11	25 - 32
19. Alaves	21	4	6	11	19 - 32
20. Mallorca	21	4	6	11	20 - 37

Croatian

Osijek - Medimurje	1 - 1
Kamen - Pula SC	2 - 1
Zagreb - Cibalia	1 - 0
Slaven - Rijeka	1 - 3
Varteks - Inter Zapresic	2 - 0

1. Din Zagreb	17	14	2	1	47 – 7
2. Rijeka	18	11	3	4	34 - 23
3. Kamen	18	8	4	6	23 - 20
4. Varteks	18	9	1	8	30 - 29
5. Osijek	18	8	3	7	21 - 28
6. Zagreb	18	7	3	8	16 - 21
7. Cibalia	18	7	2	9	19 - 28
8. Hajduk	17	5	7	5	23 - 16
9. Medimurje	18	5	5	8	21 - 29
10. Pula SC	18	5	4	9	21 - 24
11. Slaven	18	3	6	9	20 - 31
12. Zapresic	18	3	4	11	11 - 30

Greek Division One

Xanthi - OFI	0 - 0
Panathinaikos - Ionikos	1 - 0
Iraklis - AEK Athens	4 - 0
Atromitos/H. - PAOK	2 - 1
Panionios - Olympiakos	2 - 3
Levadiakos - Kalamaria	1 - 0

1. Olympiakos	17	15	0	2	38 - 11
2. AEK Athen	17	12	3	2	23 - 12
3. Pan'kos	17	10	3	4	27 - 15
4. Iraklis	17	8	4	5	21 - 17
5. PAOK	17	7	6	4	27 - 17
6. Xanthi	17	7	5	5	19 - 15
7. Aigaleo	17	6	7	4	16 - 17
8. Atromitos	17	7	3	7	20 - 19
9. Ionikos	17	5	7	5	22 - 21
10. Larisa	17	5	5	7	18 - 22
11. Kalamaria	17	5	4	8	16 - 23
12. Levadiako	17	4	5	8	11 - 17
13. OFI	17	2	7	8	10 - 21
14. Kallithea	17	2	6	9	13 - 24
15. Panionios	17	3	3	11	13 - 28
16. Akriticos	17	2	4	11	8 - 23

Portugal

Academica - Paços Ferreira	3 - 0
Sporting CP - Nacional	1 - 0

1. Porto	20	13	5	2	31 - 12	44
2. Benfica	20	12	4	4	32 - 16	40
3. Sporting	21	12	4	5	31 - 21	40
4. Nacional	21	11	6	4	26 - 12	39
5. Sp.Braga	20	12	3	5	21 - 11	39
6. Boavista	21	9	8	4	29 - 19	35
7. Setubal	20	10	3	7	16 - 11	33
8. Maritimo	20	6	9	5	25 - 22	27
9. Academica	21	7	5	9	20 - 26	26
10. Rio Ave	20	6	7	7	24 - 27	25
11. Estrela	20	7	4	9	17 - 20	25
12. Uniao	20	7	4	9	24 - 28	25
13. Belenens	20	7	3	10	24 - 22	24
14. Paços Ferr	21	6	4	11	21 - 31	22
15. Gil Vicent	20	6	3	11	17 - 25	21
16. Naval	21	5	3	13	20 - 32	18
17. Guimarae	20	4	4	12	10 - 27	16
18. Penafiel	20	1	5	14	12 - 38	8



succeroo

a pom's home view



The January transfer window closes and we reflect on the most noteworthy of rumors and transfers...

The most 'satisfying transfer' was possibly instigated by Thierry Henry who managed to blackmail Arsenal into spending a few pounds by refusing to sign a new deal unless quality players were recruited. Wenger's response was to recruit Emmanuel Adebayor, Vasiriki Abou Diaby and Theo Walcott. Perhaps not the big names Henry had in mind, but certainly young, talented players for the future.

Wenger's first victory over Mourinho in the transfer market was the £12m signing of the 16-year-old Walcott, before Peter Kenyon of Chelsea could muscle in on the deal.

Alex Fergusson wasn't quite so fortunate, as the most 'controversial transfer' centers again around Chelsea and this time Manchester United. The Red Devils believe they have bought Nigerian striker John Obi Mikel. However, Mikel, who is currently playing in the African Cup of Nations and had signed for United in April 2005, said he had been forced to put pen to paper and that Stamford Bridge was now his preferred destination. Man Utd are furious with Chelsea and want FIFA to intervene. However, Peter Kenyon claims innocence, as with the



The Lord Robbie's Prayer

**Our Fowler, Thou art is scoring,
Robbie be thy name, The transfer has been done.**

**On a free as it is in January,
Give us this day our favorite red.**

He will give us the best passes,

And stop those that pass against us.

Deliver us the title and not into relegation,

For eleven is your number, Forever and ever, Anfield.

'Ashley Cole affair' last season.

Meanwhile, the 'biggest shock transfer' came from Liverpool, with the re-signing of Robbie Fowler, referred to as 'God' by the fans.

The 30-year-old, who has joined for the rest of the season, made his original debut for the Reds as an 18-year-old in 1993. He scored a total of 171 goals in 330 games before joining Leeds for £11m in 2001 and then Man City for £6m in 2003. Fowler's 'second coming' debut was in the 1-1 draw against

Birmingham. It was nearly a perfect start, as a late substitute he netted an overhead kick only to see the goal ruled off-side.

However, the 'biggest transfer rumor', does not have the normal deadline restrictions and therefore may still come to light, again involves Chelsea. In order to increase revenue and stadium seating, Roman Abramovich is interested in buying London's 340 acre, Earls Court Exhibition Centre in a £400M swap deal that could be Stamford Bridge and the hotel complex becoming London's new showroom. While some say that this is too bigger swoop, even for the Russian billionaire, it should be noted that when Roman was circling the city, in his private helicopter, looking for a new home for his football club, he pointed to a large patch of green land and said "how about there?" "That's Hyde Park" his advisor replied. "So?" he responded. "It's owned by the Queen" his advisor replied. "So?" he repeated.

By Richard Sucksmith

HYUNDAI A-LEAGUE 2006 FINAL SERIES

Families will be the big winners with Football Federation Australia (FFA) today announcing the schedule and ticketing details for the Hyundai A-League 2006 Finals Series under the slogan "Only 1 # 1" (Only One Number One)". Competitively priced family tickets (2 Adult, 2 Children under 16) will be available across all venues for the major and minor semi-finals ranging from \$30 - \$70 plus booking/transaction fees.

With Adelaide United FC finishing the regular season in first place, and thereby claiming the premiership, they earned the right to determine which leg of the Major Semi-Final (1st v 2nd) they will play at home. As a result, Adelaide United coach, John Kosmina, elected for his team to play the first leg of the Major Semi-Final at Hindmarsh Stadium (Kick-Off 4:30pm (local time), Sunday 12th February, 2006). After defeating Adelaide United in round 21, Sydney FC secured them-

selves second place and will be Adelaide United's opponent in the Major Semi Final. Sydney FC will then host the 2nd leg of the Major Semi-Final at Aussie Stadium on Sunday the 19th February 2006 (Kick-Off 5pm AEDT). By virtue of the fact that the Newcastle Jets have elected to play at home, and the Central Coast Mariners prefer to play away, if they finish in 3rd position, the first leg of the Minor Semi-Final will be played at EnergyAustralia Stadium on Friday 10th February, 2006 (Kick-Off 8pm AEDT) with the 2nd leg scheduled to be played at Central Coast Stadium on Friday the 17th February 2006 (Kick-Off 8pm AEDT). The winner of the Major Semi-Final would then qualify and host the Hyundai A-League 2006 Grand Final and gain the opportunity to be crowned the inaugural Hyundai A-League Champions on Sunday the 5th of March (Kick-Off 5pm AEDT).

The loser of the Major Semi-Final would face the winner of the Minor Semi-Final in the Preliminary Final. The winner of the Preliminary Final then advances to the Hyundai A-League 2006 Grand Final.

Ticketing details for the Major & Minor Semi-Final fixtures have now been released and appear on the Hyundai A-League website (www.a-league.com.au), with preferential booking periods for Hyundai A-League Club members and season ticket holders plus members of the FFA Football Family. An allocation of tickets is also available for travelling "Away" supporters in dedicated seating areas.

Hyundai A-League Television partner, Fox Sports, will broadcast every Hyundai A-League Final Series match "Live and Exclusive" including an extended one-hour pre-match coverage of the Hyundai A-League Grand Final.

Hyundai A-League radio partner, Radio 2, will also broadcast all Hyundai A-League Finals Series matches across their nationwide network as well as on Foxtel Audio Channel 831 and Austar Audio Channel 2.



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AUSSIE ABROAD

WITH SCOTT MACDONALD



It's the last day of the 2004/05 season in the Scottish Premier League Celtic lead 1-0 over Motherwell at the 86th minute mark. A point will earn them the title, but Australian striker Scott McDonald, co-incidentally a Celtic fan since birth, has other ideas. McDonald hits the back of the net after 86 minutes to level proceedings, before striking the winner two minutes later to hand Celtic's arch-rivals Rangers the title. Aussies Abroad reporter James Willoughby caught up with the striker making headlines in Scotland.

James Willoughby: The first comment I make, from myself – a Rangers fan, is thank you!

Scott McDonald: (laughs) Your not the first person to say that to me, it was a dramatic period of time, and straight after the match I came back to Melbourne to try and get away from the publicity. But it was quite hard with all the family back home, and there were phone calls left, right and centre. It's taken a while but it was good to finally get that behind me and get on with my career, which I'm quite happy with at the moment.

JW: What did it feel like scoring a brace against such a strong side as Celtic?

SM: It was a great feeling, but when it's the team you have supported all your life as a young kid it's a little hard to take. After I scored the first goal to level the scores, I was thinking to myself what have I done here, because I knew the exact situation. But at the end of the day, I get paid to play football for the Motherwell Football Club so all I'm concerned about is getting the best possible results for them.

JW: At the time of writing you have scored ten goals this season, and last year you were also a consistent goalscorer, surely that must boost the confidence?

SM: I'm very happy, at the moment, to be honest, I feel like I played much better last year than I have this year, but I suppose if I

keep up my form I'm going to score more goals than last year. I still feel there is more to come this year, which is good news.

JW: After a bit of a barren patch you were dropped to the bench for the clash with Falkirk, what was it like not being involved in the starting side?

SM: Obviously it was very disappointing. But I feel it was the kick up the backside I needed because I've lifted my form and after being dropped, I scored three goals in the next two matches. Hopefully I'm doing everything right and the manager was happy with my reaction.

JW: You are still a fairly young bloke, at the age of 22- You've been at a few clubs before moving to Motherwell (Southampton, Huddersfield, Bournemouth and MK Dons), so what sets 'well apart from the rest?

SM: I think it's been great for me to settle down and play senior football, which has always been vital to me. When you're a young fella, you need games to learn and experience, and at Motherwell to play regularly has been a great help. The club is also a real family club, and it's got a real sort of tight-knit feeling. We were in administration three years ago but the fans have been fantastic and supported us through thick and thin.

JW: How are you enjoying life in Scotland? Not homesick at all?

SM: No, I'm coping quite well and it always helps when you've got family here. I also see my parents a fair bit – who live in Melbourne – but all is going well and I'm playing regular football which is the main thing.

JW: How was being involved at Southampton?

SM: It was brilliant, I learnt so much of many players. One that springs to mind is Matt Le Tissier who was sensational to learn off. To see what he had made of himself at Southampton was brilliant and to learn off his brilliance in training and match day was great for my development. James Beattie was another who helped me quite a lot, and I was lucky enough to have a few senior games and play alongside him, and those two have been instrumental in my development as a player.

JW: Several English clubs in the Premiership and the Championship have been linked with you, how would you feel about making a return to England?

SM: I've always said that I'd like to play at the highest level and to get back into the Premiership would be brilliant and would give me the chance to prove a lot of people wrong. I'd love a return to the Premier League, but I'm only 22 and I have still have a lot to learn. If a top-flight club comes in for me I'd definitely consider it, but at the moment I am very happy at Motherwell.

JW: What have been your thoughts on the A-League so far?

SM: My thoughts so far are that it has been a raging success. My dad has been filling me in on the progress regularly and it all sounds like it's going brilliantly. Being a Melbourne boy I know a lot of the players and the management – Ernie Merrick was my coach at the VIS. It would be lovely to come back later in my career and finish it where I started, so playing for the Victory in my last few years would be fantastic.

JW: Your family is Scottish, yet you were born in Melbourne. Where do your loyalties lie?

SM: I've answered a lot of questions on this subject, but it's definitely Australia. It's where I was born and learnt the game, and I have never thought of playing for anyone else bar Australia.

JW: Many football pundits have been talking up your chances of making the squad for Germany, do you think this is a realistic possibility?

SM: I try not to think about it at this point in time, I'd like to concentrate on playing good club football and if I do that I feel a stand a reasonable chance. I'd love to represent my country and I've done it at every other level (U/17, U/20 and U/23) so it'd be a proud moment and I'm working hard on making the team for Germany.

JW: Onto the victory over Uruguay, what were you doing the night we qualified?

SM: I was actually watching Sky Sports News because the game wasn't on in Britain. I searched around all the Aussie pubs in hope of watching the game, but there was no pubs showing them. I was getting the updates via Sky Sports News but you couldn't see the game, just hear commentators talking about them. It was nerve-racking and exciting at the same time, and when Mark Viduka missed his penalty I thought the worst, but fantastic for the boys to get the victory after all the past disappointments.

I was actually a ball-boy at the MCG for the Iran game in 1997 and we were 2-0 up and unfortunately a serial pest (Peter Hoare) ran onto the ground and stopped the game for five minutes, we lost our momentum and they scored two goals on the break so to make up for nights like those.

JW: Who was the first person you spoke to after the night?

SM: I spoke to Luke Wilkshire who is a great friend of mine and he did saying it was something unbelievable. It's a great bunch of lads and lots of camaraderie and the night would have been brilliant to be at, but it was great to speak to Luke on the night of the qualification.



JW: Have you been in touch with 'Aussie' Guus?

SM: I haven't spoken to him personally, I've been in regular touch with Graham Arnold but Guus is a very busy man – he has two jobs at the moment with PSV and the Socceroos. With the qualification, he has more time to prepare so I hope to hear from him in the not to distant future.

JW: How far do you think we can go in Germany after receiving a group that consists of Brazil, Croatia and Japan?

SM: Anything is possible, especially with Australians. Aussies are always very confident and we have this 'never say die' attitude and I'm confident we can compete. The first game is crucial and if we can win that we would be on our way to the second round.

JW: Thanks Scott for your time, and good luck for the rest of the year.

SM: No worries James.

By James Willoughby



NATIONAL NEWS

JOEYS TO TEST THE WATERS IN ASIAN CONFEDERATION



The Qantas Joeys (Australia U-17s) will depart Australia tomorrow for Laos where they will compete in preliminary qualifying for the FIFA U-17 World Championship and in doing so become the first Australian team to compete as a member of the Asian Football Confederation.

Australia will meet Indonesia and host-nation Laos in Group I with the winner

to progress to the final stage of the AFC U-17 Championship to be held in Singapore in September.

National Youth Coach Ange Postecoglou has confirmed that NSW Institute player James Raiti will captain the team for the qualifying matches. Paul Giannou an attacking midfielder from Victoria and centre back George Strogilos of NSW have both been named as vice-captains.

“James is a central midfielder who has shown some of the attributes we look for in a leader,” says Postecoglou. “He is quite mature for his age, is confident in his abilities and is not afraid to put himself about in the centre of the pitch.

“We have only had the players in for a total of four days and the three players that have been selected as captain and vice-captains have shown some leadership qualities but the upcoming period will prove to be a little bit of a challenge for them as well to see how they step up.”

Postecoglou is also looking forward to

the challenge of qualifying through Asia and the benefits it will bring for player development.

“Qualifying through Asia will be a considerable but exciting challenge and it will obviously be harder than previous campaigns though it will also produce better international players purely because of the exposure we will have to quality opposition on a more regular basis.”

The Australian squad for the AFC U-17 World Championship qualifying tournament is:

Paul Giannou (Victoria), Andrew Jerez (Victoria), Milos Lujic (Victoria), Rocky Visconte (South Australia), Philip Kirreh (South Australia), Michael McEntagert g/k (South Australia), Travis Anderson (South Australia), Nathan Papez (Queensland), Dillon Visser g/k (Queensland), James Brown (Queensland), Dean Bouzanis g/k (New South Wales), Aaron Mooy (New South Wales), Brodie Mooy (New South Wales), Jesse Pinto (New South Wales), Nathan Sherlock (New South Wales), James Raiti (New South Wales), George Strogilos (New South Wales), Nemanja

Tomic (New South Wales), Brent McGrath (New South Wales), Ben Bronnberg (New South Wales)

Stand-by

Joshua Birch (New South Wales), Jonathan Reis (ACT), Taylor Beaton (ACT), Myles Carseldine (Queensland), Daniel Watson (Queensland), Nikolas Tsattalos (New South Wales)

The Group I match schedule is:

Laos v Australia

Tuesday 7 February 5pm (9pm AEDST)

National Stadium, Vientiane City

Australia v Indonesia

Thursday 9 February 5pm (9pm AEDST)

National Stadium, Vientiane City

Indonesia v Laos

Saturday 11 February, 59m (9pm AEDST)

National Stadium, Vientiane City

The 2007 FIFA U-17 World Championship will be played in South Korea and will include five AFC participants including the host-nation.

OLYMPIC HOPEFULS TAKE FIRST STEPS TOWARDS BEIJING 2008

The long road to the Beijing Olympics for the Qantas Under 23s (Australian Men's u-23 football team) will commence next week in Canberra when a squad of home-based players are put through their paces at the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra.

A squad of 18 players will attend the camp which will focus primarily on fitness, physiology and medical testing.

Qantas Socceroos assistant coach Graham Arnold and newly appointed assistant coach Johan Neeskens will oversee the squad during the three days in camp which commences on Monday.

“This camp is the first stage in the identification process of players as we

commence the long road towards next year's Olympic qualifiers for Beijing in 2008,” said John Boulton, FFA Head of High Performance.

“This camp will allow the coaching staff to assess players with fitness and medical testing both key components.”

“Next week's camp will not include overseas-based players, nor Hyundai A-League players that are involved in the finals series, however there will be a number of opportunities for other players in future camps.

“There will be a similar camp in March for a separate group with further players called in over the coming months allowing us the opportunity to develop

a large pool of players eligible for Beijing.

“The qualifying program, which will involve up to 10 matches played throughout 2007, is set to commence next February meaning a requirement to start preparation as early as possible.”

The squad for the AIS camp is:

Billy Celeski (Perth Glory), Nick Crossley (Richmond, Victoria), Matt Deegan (Manly Warringah, NSW), Spase Dilevski (Queensland Roar), Ben Griffin (Queensland Roar), Nathan Hughes (Sutherland Sharks, NSW), Frank Lagana (Heidelberg United, Victoria), Vince Lia (Melbourne Victory), Adrian Leijer (Melbourne Victory), Jay

Lucas (Marconi Stallions, NSW), David Micevski (Perth Glory), Kristian Sarkies (Melbourne Victory), Jordan Simpson (uncontracted), Tyler Simpson (Queensland Roar), Nikolai Topor-Stanley (Manly Warringah, NSW), Ryan Townsend (Perth Glory), Nick Ward (Perth Glory), Keegan Wolfenden (South Cardiff, NSW).

The U-23 Asian Olympic qualifiers will see the top three teams qualifying with China qualifying automatically as the host nation. Unlike the previous three men's Olympic football tournaments there will be no over-age players eligible to compete in Beijing.

SOME MOMENTS REQUIRE THE BEST



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Monday 6 February 2006

YESTERDAY'S HEROES.....LOUIS MANDYLOR

Over the summer months Goal! Weekly caught up with Aussie actor Louis Mandylor while he was visiting Melbourne. Louis terrorised defenders in the State Leagues during the early to mid eighties with his pace, quick footwork and nose for goal. He was known as Lou Theodosopoulos back in those days (before adopting his mother's maiden name) and after rising through the ranks to play for Heidelberg United in the NSL, he embarked on an acting career, which took him to Hollywood. You may remember him in the smash hit movie "My Big Fat Greek Wedding" where he played the brother, "Nick". He was also a star of the TV series "Marshall Law" amongst others.

These days, apart from acting, Louis heads a production company and was in Australia doing some ground-work for a new movie, ironically enough, about AFL. Hawthorn footy player Shane Crawford is touted to be one of the leads.

Anyway, it had been a long time between drinks for Louis in this country when we got together for a catch up. Here's how it went.

When was the last time you were in Australia?
1999

Do you miss it much?
I miss Australia very much and more specifically Melbourne because it's my home and where I grew up.

Even though you've been away for a while do you still get homesick?
Well, it has been a long time and I definitely do get a little homesick. But, life throws you some curve balls every now and then, and if you want to make God laugh then tell him your plans.

How did you end up in America?
I originally went over there for a holiday and then, here I am, eighteen years later still living there. Although I've got two homes my roots are here and it's been pretty awesome being back.

Have you noticed many changes since you've been back?

Oh yeah, absolutely. The city feels like it's grown up a lot. I mean it's vibrant, colourful, loud and pretty eclectic. It's changed in many ways but then again it still remains the same in others.

Who did you play for in Australia?

I initially played for Melbourne-Hungaria when they were around and won a State League Division One Championship in 1985 before transferring to Caulfield City. Unfortunately there was a bit of a 'click' going on there and it bothered me a lot. I've waited fifteen years to get this off my chest (laughs), but I was very disappointed with the way things turned out there, especially towards the end of my time there.

Where did you go after that?

Well, in 1988 I ended up going to Heidelberg United where we had an unbelievable year. I was playing up front with Dennis Morovic, who I thought was a great striker and the coach at the time, Terry Hennessy, decided to drop me even though I thought I was playing well enough and scoring a few goals. I obviously wasn't happy about that, but he got fired soon afterwards anyway and was replaced by Jim Tansey. I managed to win my place back under Tansey and we ended up winning the League and the Play-Off game against Brisbane City where I scored the winner in Brisbane to help win promotion to the NSL.

What happened after that?

The following year I suppose I got a little bit bored with everything and decided to pursue a boxing career, which Heidelberg and my family weren't too happy about. But, I took my boxing very seriously and was just as passionate about that as I am with my soccer and everything else I do. Anyway, just after the new season started I ended joining



Louis Mandylor back home in Melbourne enjoying a chat with Goal! Weekly

Western Suburbs, who were struggling at the foot of the table, and we managed to do well enough to turn things around and eventually finish fifth or sixth. The icing on the cake for me that year was in the last game of the season, when we had to play Springvale City who were now being coached by Terry Hennessy. They were in second place and had to get a result against us for a chance to be promoted. Unfortunately for Terry and Springvale, I managed to grab the winner that day and blew their chances of going up. You could say it was a pretty "bitter

and invaded the pitch again. This old Greek guy with grey hair and pure elation grabs me and says, "Thank you Theodosopoulos! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!" He then kissed me and ran off. (laughs) But, I'll never forget it. I was totally in the zone and their passion was just unbelievable.

What's been the highlight of your movie career?

Paying rent! (laughs) No, but seriously, It's a fact that only 2% of actors make a living and about 99% of what we do out of that is

"I was just as passionate about my boxing as I am with my soccer"

sweet" sort of finish to that season. Bitter for Terry, but pretty sweet for me! (laughs) And that's I suppose how my soccer career in Australia ended. Scored the winner and went out on a high. After that I went to Greece for a bit of a holiday before coming back here and then off to America.

What was the highlight of your soccer career?

It was one of the final games in the season to win the State League title, which won you the right to play Brisbane City for promotion to the old NSL. It was 0-0 with about fifteen minutes to go when I came off the bench and got my chance in the game. I was really fired up and moments later I played a ball to our forward and good mate Con Pappas who scored to break the deadlock and send our fans into raptures. The fans went berserk and invaded the pitch. It seemed like everyone was going crazy.

We were all buzzing on the pitch too and then minutes later Claude Luchesi sends this cross into the penalty area. I was the smallest guy in the box but I managed to rise above all the six foot four defenders and head one into the top corner. I felt like I was floating and it all happened in slow-motion. The crowd then jumped the fence

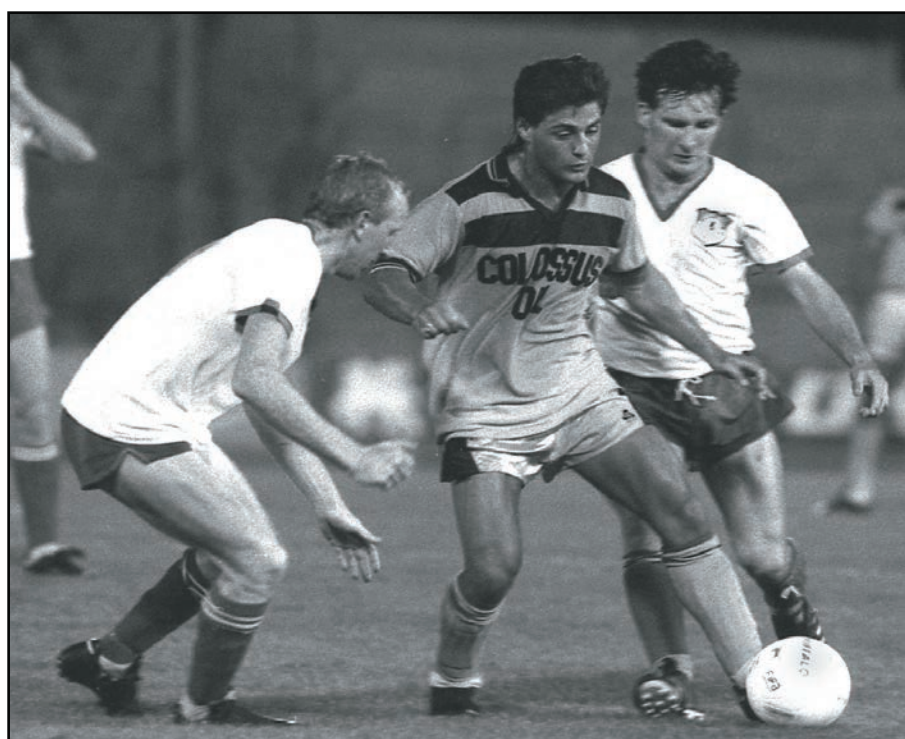
rejection. It takes a lot to get through that and I just feel blessed that I've been able to pay rent for fifteen years and still enjoy it all.

Who was the biggest influence on your soccer career?

Paddy Bannon. Winning the State League Championship with Paddy Bannon and his brother Vince was an awesome experience. I actually learnt from Paddy Bannon more about life and soccer than anyone else. I'll go on the record and say that. He's a special guy.

So how did America come into the picture?

I was still fighting pretty seriously and had over ten fights under my belt. I decided to really give it a good go and my brother, Costas, was in Hollywood at the time doing a wonderful film called "Triumph of the Spirit". He also befriended Teddy Atlas, who is world renowned as a boxing trainer and suggested I should come over to meet Teddy and train with him. I said to him "I'm on!". So, I jumped on a plane went over and somehow ended up in an acting class. It's amazing how things change. But I fell in love with the business and got a job or two and decided to stay there and really give this acting thing a good shot.



Louis Mandylor playing for Heidelberg against Green Gully.

FROM HEIDELBERG TO HOLLYWOOD

This might seem like a silly question but, any regrets?

No. None what so ever.

Do you still play at all these days?

As a matter of fact I still play in a few pick-up games here and there, but the main club I'm a member of and enjoying playing with these days is Hollywood United. Good ol' Anthony La Paglia plays in goal for us whenever he can, which is quite often because he loves his soccer and my good brother, Costas, also plays. It's not a bad line-up.

(*Lou's brother is an ex-Green Gully player who scored the winner in the 1986 Doker-*

ty Cup Final against Preston before also embarking overseas on an acting career and starred in TV series such as "Picket Fences" and features such as "Mobsters" to name a few).

Apart from the other roles you've managed to land in Los Angeles you were also involved in a soccer movie called "The Game of Our Lives". Tell us a bit about that.

We were 11, when we were growing up my brother and I wanted to play for Australia, just as I imagine every other young soccer kid dreams to represent their country. Funnily enough though through the magic of the movies we managed to end up representing

America. It's a period piece based on the

one of the best soccer movies made in ages.

We really enjoyed and had an absolute ball. The football side of things was quite legitimate as well, because everyone who was in the movie had to be able to play and we even ended up casting a few Brazilians who had some pretty good skills.

You were actually in the States when the World Cup was staged in 1994.

Did you happen to catch any games? Yeah! I went to the Final with my dad and my brother and we saw Brazil beat Italy on penalties. We enjoyed it. It was great.

Being of Greek heritage, did you hold any interest for the last European Championships whilst living in America?

Mate, yeah, absolutely! Does a one legged duck swim in circles? (laughs) We watched it over at my house and we all jumped into the pool when Greece won. My father jumped into the pool, I jumped into the pool and my brother walked through one of my doors.

He was so excited he went to go and celebrate and ran into one of my doors! He still owes me 200 bucks for it too! (laughs)

What about the Aussies played against Uruguay?

I managed to watch both legs. Gee, that was pretty intense wasn't it? Yeah, I was in Los Angeles at the time and on the phone with a few soccer buddies from here while they were actually at the game. I was so rapt for them and it was about time we qualified too.

What about the rest of your life? What else is happening in you life in LA?

Well, I'm happily married now. My wife's name is Aneela Eaman and we meet during the filming of "Fat Wedding". She's a make-up artist and it's really positive and really interesting.

Did you have a big fat Greek wedding?

(laughs) No, we had a skinny little Greek wedding.

Any advice for budding soccer stars or movies stars out there?

Yeah! Don't listen to your friends who say you can't do it. Believe in you dream and keep in mind that champions of champions don't only have raw, unique talent but work really hard on their craft. Work hard and anything can be achieved. If the mind can conceive it, then you can achieve it.

Last but not least, would you rather win an Oscar or a World Cup?

(laughs) Right about now it would have to be an Oscar. But, if you asked me ten years ago it would have been the World Cup. (laughs)

Thanks very much for taking the time to speak to Goal! Weekly. We wish you all the best of success in future endeavours.



Louis Mandylor shows his pace against Gary Van Egmond of Melbourne JUST.

"Don't listen to your friends who say you can't do it."

true story of how an American team was put together in 10 days to compete in the 1954 World Cup and their first match was against England - who were even more of a soccer super-power back then along with the likes of Brazil and Argentina.

As most soccer fans probably already



Louis receives another award to add to the collection. Seen here at the 2003 IFC Spirit Awards.

Does your team train at all?

Yeah, well we actually play in a legitimate League and we have training sessions once a week for anyone that can make it. There's not a great deal of pressure but we take it seriously enough, if you know what I mean.

caused one of the biggest upsets of sporting history when they defeated the English, but the Korean War broke out simultaneously and the story was kinda forgotten - in a broader scale anyway. It's a true feel good story that actually happened and through director David Armspar we've tried to document it. I will go on the record to say it's probably

Apart from a few acting roles in the penalty box Louis also starred in...

The Game of Their Lives (2005) as Virginio Pariani

Jimmy Bones (2003) as Jimmy Bones

Gang of Roses (2003) Sheriff as Shoeshine Michel

Touched by an Angel (2003) TV Series as Marty

My Big Fat Greek Wedding (2002) as Nick Portokalos

Friends (2000) TV Series as Carl

Martial Law (1998) TV Series as Detective Louis Malone

Jane Austen's Mafia (1998) as Middle Aged Vincenzo

Nash Bridges (1997) TV Series as Ray Goetz

The Quest (1996) as Riggi

Grace Under Fire (1993) TV Series as Carl

The Heartbreak Kid (1993) as Eleni

Necessary Roughness (1991) as McKenzie

China Beach (1990) TV Series



Brothers in Arms: Louis with brother Costas, who also played for Green Gully, display their football skills "The Game of Our Lives"

Kat's Corner

With George Katsamboukas



Hate to do this, but I need to pinch Eddie's famous one liner.

WHAT A BIG WEEK IT HAS BEEN IN FOOTBALL!

Hellenic Cup Finals, Crazy Johns Cup Final, player walkouts, calls for coaching sackings, it has certainly been a hectic and eventful week!

Speaking of Eddie, our fellow columnist seems to have acquired a new name for his column.

From Krncevic's Corner to Krncevic's Krunchlines.

When the editors of Goal! weekly asked

me for a name for my column, I did suggest Katsa's Krunchlines, however, the Krunchlines was transferred to Eddie's column as it has a catchier title combined with the name Krncevic than it does with the name Katsa.

I am now the unofficial Godfather of Eddie's Column!

The Hellenic Cup drew to a conclusion last weekend, with the Finals being played at Port Melbourne's Ground.

Oakleigh Canons defeated South Melbourne 2-1 in a highly entertaining game.

Peter Kakos opened the scoring for the Canons with a header in the first half, and Kevin Nelson equalised for South in the second half.

The game went into extra time and Scotty Webster made a 30 yard run down the left flank, only to be bought down in the box by Arthur Tsirtsakis.

George Goutzioulis converted the spot-kick giving Oakleigh victory.

Debates raged over the ensuing days with South supporters claiming that the referee got it all wrong.

Naturally, the Oakleigh faithful claimed that Scotty was collected in the box.

The Hellenic Cup Committee has designed an excellent website which includes video clips and photos from the entire competition, take a few minutes to visit www.helleniccup.com.au

South atoned for this defeat when they defeated Fawkner/Whittlesea on Tuesday night 2-0, in the Crazy Johns Final.

Fielding a team made up of mostly Under 21 Players, South collected their first piece of Silverware for many years.

Ernie Merrick has certainly been in the firing line over the past month, with Victory supporters none too pleased with their team missing out on the Finals Series.

One year down, two to go on Ernie's Contract, Geoff Lord has come out and stated that a coach is a coach for as long as he is coaching the team- interesting terminology Geoff, watch this space I guess...

Strong rumour has it that Jim Kourtis has severed his ties with Kingston City, on the eve of their first game in the Premier League.

Coupled with this Rumour is that the Reds have signed ex Marconi Keeper Michael Turnbull.

The Oakleigh Canons had their Jumper Presentation Night on Wednesday night, and it was certainly a very entertaining evening.

Each Player was auctioned off, and many Companies and Individuals showed their support to the Canons by sponsoring the players and coaching staff.

Some very interesting and amusing snippets from the night itself.

The MC introduced the Coach of Oakleigh as Stuart Webster!

Freudian slip maybe, perhaps Stuart will take up coaching one day when he hangs up his gloves.

Or Stuart Munro will make a comeback to playing as a Goalkeeper.

At the conclusion of the Players Auction, the crowd called for one of our readers, who is referred to around the Oakleigh area as Johnny The Gun, to be auctioned off! Auctioned off he was, and such as his popularity that the final bid equalled that of the highest bided player!

Katsa over and out – for now!



South Melbourne is the proud winner of the 2006 Crazy John's Cup



BOO'S WORLD

A satirical look at the World of Football according to Mark Boric

The A League season is over, for Melbourne Victory at least. Seventh place may be mid-table mediocrity in some leagues, but in an eight team competition it is pretty poor.

At the bottom of the league came New Zealand Knights, a club who dreams of the day when they can be considered “pretty poor” or “mediocre”. The Knights get fewer fans to a game than the sackmerrick.com petition got signatures.

Anyway that’s enough A League talk, there is a seven-month off season so I won’t be mentioning it much again this year.

The Vodafone Cup is back in full swing, with both promoted teams winning on Friday night. The name has been changed from the VPL to Vodafone Cup to stop people from picturing visible panty lines in their minds when

they should be concentrating on football.

Well, I might mention the A League some more, as the end of their season may see a few out of contract players on the move. Provisional League scouts who have watched Victory games are said to be highly excited by the talent they have seen. Thankfully the editor chose not to go with some cartoons I had sketched for the column of the prophet Mohammed in various football kits. Boycotts would not have been good for our balance of trade figures.

The freedom of speech debate raged from Denmark this week-end to Olympic Park, where a few banners displayed at the Victory game were removed by police and security.

I read with interest the “Kat’s Corner” in the last edition. I

looked at the picture with the column with interest too. I was wishing that George Katsamboukas was either not in it, or at least not in the centre and maybe hidden off to the side, so we could see more of the girls.

Bentleigh Greens should start building a new grandstand. I mean, the number of Cypriots coming out of the woodwork during the Australian Open tennis means they may be getting some massive crowds at Kingston Heath this season. Or will they all do a Sol Campbell, and go missing pretty quickly?

Until next week remembers there is always the sun. Always, always, always the sun.

QUICK QUIZ

- 1/ Who is the new coach of Essendon Royals?
- 2/ Which country is South Melbourne striker Kevin Nelson hoping to represent at this year’s World Cup?
- 3/ How many goals did Melbourne Victory’s Kevin Muscat score from the penalty spot this year?
- 4/ Who is the captain of Oakleigh Cannons?
- 5/ Craig Lewis is the new coach of which Vodafone Cup side?
- 6/ Kingston City’s new goalkeeper Michael Turnbull played with which Belgium side?
- 7/ Who plays at Kevin Bartlett Reserve?
- 8/ Which team won the Crazy John’s Pre-Season Cup?
- 9/ Which player won the VPL Best Player Award for 2005?
- 10/ Name the coach who was shown the door at St James’ Park last week?

Now’s the Time for Action

With the Vodafone Cup kicking off this week, it’s time we all get into action as a community to look at how we can contribute to Football 4 Tsunami.

Members of FFV Academy squads are invited to donate at their Gala Day at Darebin International Sports Centre, on the 11th and 12th of February. Boxes for donations will

Many clubs have stepped up to make some great contributions, notably North Coburg SC who have set aside space in the club-rooms for donations (and donated 4 sets of strips, in addition to over 150 items in the first collection), as well as Ashburton JSC, who are inviting all their players and families to donate their football apparel and equipment at their club’s registration day on February 29th.

Ashburton JSC have also donated a Thierry Henry signed French team national jersey, which people can bid for, with all funds raised going directly to Football 4 Tsunami. Bidding has opened at \$300, and you can email us your bid at kayababic@footall4tsunami.org. Information regarding the jersey will be available on our new website very soon, check it out – www.football4tsunami.org.



(Pictured: Jacob McLaughlin-Cafferty, Ashburton JSC U/10 player with the jersey)

be available around the pavilion all week-end. We would love to have a massive contribution from our Academy families; that result would be quite amazing.

And most importantly, we ask that you start communicating with committee members, players, parents and club members as to how they can contribute to this project. With every piece of football apparel and equipment delivered to children in Sri Lanka later this year, we’ll be making a profound and lasting difference to their ability to regain a sense of normality after the December 2004 tsunami tragedy. The way this project was designed was to make it as easy as possible for people to contribute and make a difference, and therefore we request that you pass on the message to your personal football community, whilst we all work together as one united Victorian community to help Sri Lankans in need through a sport we all love.



QUIZ ANSWERS	
1. Luciano Trani	6. Standard Liege
2. Trinidad and Tobago	7. Richmond
3. Five	8. South Melbourne
4. Felix Rosman	9. Anthony Mbagwa
5. Frankston Pines	10. Graeme Souness

The FFV Football Show
Channel 31
Wednesday, 9pm

The Green Gully Soccer Show
Channel 31

ON THE BOX

Fox Sports 1
Saturday, 11.45pm

EPL, TBA v TBA
Fox Sports 1
Sunday, 2am

EPL, P'mouth v Man Utd
Fox Sports 1
Sunday, 4.15am

The World Game
SBS
Sundays, 2pm – 5.30pm

The Sunday Roast Show
Casey radio 97.7FM
Sunday, 2-5pm
Featuring coverage of the Vodafone Cup with Paul Jefferies

ON THE AIRWAVES

Monday 5pm
Featuring coverage of the Vodafone Cup
This week: Fawknor v Altona

SIT DOWN TO
THE FFV FOOTBALL
SHOW
& DON'T FORGET TO WATCH THE OFFSIDE
EVERY WEDNESDAY 9PM



HYUNDAI A-LEAGUE ROUND 21

VICTORY ENDS SEASON ON A HIGH

The Melbourne Victory have capped off their Hyundai A-League season with a win after goals from defenders Mark Byrnes and Kevin Muscat gave the Melbourne Victory a 2-1 win over the New Zealand Knights at Olympic Park tonight.

The game was not a match for football purists, as both sides placing on the table were reflected by the skill level of the match which wasn't extraordinarily high. The 10,078-strong crowd was sensational once more, with the Northern Terrace in full flight as always.

Melbourne manager Ernie Merrick be-moaned his lack of firepower up front at the post-match media conference.

"I think it sums up our season, our defence has been rock-solid and has hardly allowed the other team a shot at goal, our midfield has created lots of chances, our strikers have got on the end of things. Goalkeepers always have a fantastic game against us, so does the woodwork. It shows you the areas we have to work at for next year."

Despite the loss, under-fire Knights manager John Adshead remained upbeat. "2-1 away is not disastrous," he said. "You might say (the scoreline) was flattering, but then again you might look at it and say that

at times there was some very good quality defending."

Melbourne was quick to attack when left-back Simon Storey prompted Knights keeper Glen Moss into a smart save to deny the defender. However the Victory soon had the lead when from the resultant corner Byrnes sent the crowd bananas after just two minutes with a cool header.

Kristian Sarkies corner was allowed to bounce in the box and Byrnes popped up at the far post to head the Victory into the lead. Melbourne continued to attack relentlessly and piled the pressure on a Kiwi defence which has been horrible this season.

Despite the Victory missing a hatful of further chances, the lead was doubled after 20 minutes when skipper Muscat converted a somewhat dubious penalty. Workhorse striker Danny Allsopp was seemingly felled outside the box by Knights defender John Tambouras, but the referee pointed to the spot.

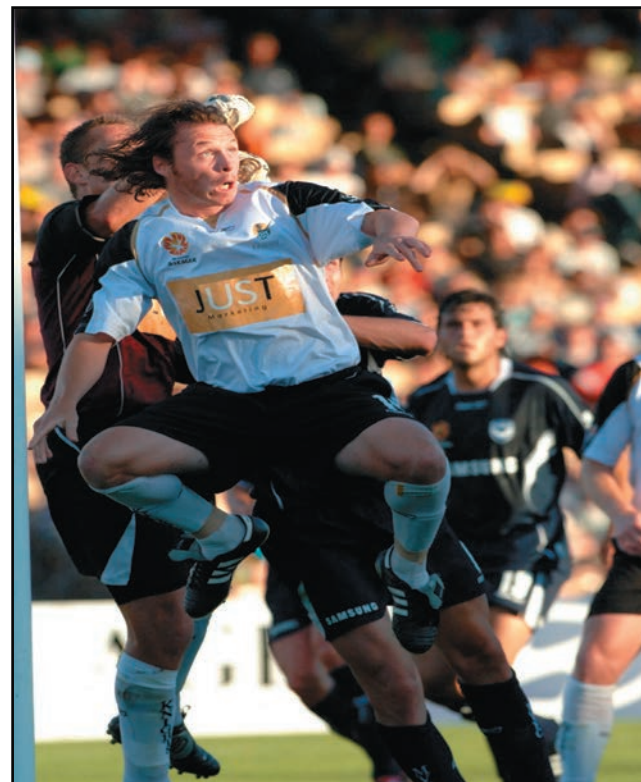
Muscat stepped up and smashed the ball into the right-hand corner to score his sixth goal of the season, of which five have been from the penalty spot. The pressure continued as utility Carl Recchia's header thudded into

the crossbar, before Byrnes had another shot cleared off the goal line.

Melbourne went in 2-0 ahead at the change, and mullet-man and cult figure Ricky Diaco replaced the ineffective Andy Vlahos, who has been embarrassingly poor this season for the Victory. The crowd continued to get frustrated as young gun Sarkies spurned two golden chances inside a minute, whilst Diaco and Allsopp couldn't get on the end of good crosses from Michael Ferrante.

At the 64 minute mark, New Zealand registered their first shot on target for the match when Sean Devine's effort hardly troubled Victory keeper Michael Theoklitos. Only moments later, Moss pulled off a sensational save to deny Muscat's long-range lob which was destined for the back of the net.

The latter part of the second half was rather un-eventful despite a late consolation strike



from talented youngster Jeremy Brockie for the Knights, but the Victory were never in danger of losing the three points.

By James Willoughby

HYUNDAI A-LEAGUE FINAL STANDINGS

1. Adelaide Utd	21	13	4	4	33	25	43
2. Sydney FC	21	10	6	5	35	28	7 36
3. CC Mariners	21	8	8	5	35	28	32
4. Newcastle	21	9	4	8	27	29	31
5. Perth Glory	21	8	5	8	34	29	29
6. QLD Roar	21	7	7	7	27	22	28
7. Melbourne	21	7	5	9	26	24	26
8. NZ Knights	21	1	3	17	15	47	6

HYUNDAI A-LEAGUE FINALS SERIES SCHEDULE

Minor Semi Final 1st Leg
Fri 10 Feb 2006
Newcastle Jets FC
v
Central Coast Mariners FC
EnergyAustralia Stadium, KO 8pm

Major Semi Final 1st Leg
Sun 12 Feb 2006
Adelaide United FC
v
Sydney FC
Hindmarsh Stadium, KO 5pm

ISING RELEASES FIERY OUTBURST

Looking back at the Hyundai A-League season, Melbourne Victory media manager Tony Ising has launched a scathing attack on the anti-football press, when speaking to **James Willoughby**.

There are football haters out there. The Age's Greg Baum is a fine example. Not only did he drag the game through the mud, he also attempted to make connections with the game and the racial fights in Cronulla.

The Sunday Mail's Kevin Naughton is another anti-football journalist. In an article titled 'World Game needs a little respect to win us over' he commenced his story with the words: 'What a pity the Socceroos won their way into the World Cup.'

What a pity. Somehow, I don't think the 8.5 million people watching (according to a Roy Morgan poll) thought it was a pity. He said the dramatic victory was a threat to a society which was 'delightfully free of the nationalistic and ugly fervour associated with the so-called world game'.

Naughton. You idiot.

Melbourne Victory media manager Tony Ising has had enough, and had this to say to Goal Weekly in wake of more negative press.

"I've had enough of all this anti-football stuff. The articles from various media sources which dared to question the passion and loyalty from our supporters are completely false" Ising said.

"This is yet another pathetic attempt by sections of the media to try and remove the egg off their face after the constant predictions of crowd failure were proved untrue".

"Ever since round one, the media have been

predicting our demise and they have been proven wrong every single week. Our passionate and loyal supporters have stuck with the club in unprecedented numbers despite a string of poor results. They have sat through four games without a win or a goal and they keep coming back" he said.

Ising's comments came after a wide range of sources in the media made comment that the fans would turn away in the droves throughout the season.



"The tactic of questioning the loyalty of our fans to satisfy one's own agenda is nothing short of pathetic. MVFC has had to endure slurs and barbs all season from the media and with one game remaining I'd like to call on the football press to make a public apology not only to the club, but to the fans".

"The agenda has changed onto attack on the fans, and the club will stick by the fans, like the fans have stuck by the club. They are the best fans in the league and will continue to turn up, week in, week out" he said.

HYUNDAI A-LEAGUE ROUND 21

Melbourne Victory 2 (M Byrnes 2nd, K Muscat 21st pen)
NZ Knights 1 (J Brockie 90th)

Crowd 10,078
Venue: Olympic Park

Qld Roar 2 (A Brosque 3rd, M Baird 60th)

CC Mariners 2 (S Petrie 33rd, W O'Sullivan 79th)

Crowd 13,641
Venue: Suncorp Stadium

Sydney FC 2 (D Yorke 48th pen, A Ceccoli 71st)

Adelaide UTD 1 (Q Shengqing 51st)

Crowd 25, 557
Venue: Aussie Stadium

Newcastle Jets 1 (V Coveney 34th)

Perth Glory 3 (N Ward 9th, A Picken (OG), D Morey 71st)

Crowd
Venue: Energy Australia Stadium